BRESLAW's LAST LEGACY;

OR THE

MAGICAL COMPANION:

CONTAINING ALL THAT IS

CURIOUS, PLEASING, ENTERTAINING AND COMICAL;

SELECTED

From the moſt celebrated Maſters of Deception:

As well with SLIGHT of HAND,

As with MATHEMATICAL INVENTIONS.

WHEREIN IS DISPLAYED

The Mode and Manner of deceiving the Eye;

as practiſed by thoſe celebrated Maſters of

MIRTHFUL DECEPTIONS.

Including the various Exhibitions of thoſe wonderful Artiſts,

BRESLAW, SIEUR, COMUS, JONAS, &c.

ALSO THE

INTERPRETATION OF DREAMS, SIGNIFICATION OF MOLES, PALMESTRY, &c.

The whole forming

A BOOK of real KNOWLEDGE in the ART of CONJURATION.

With an accurate Deſcription of the Method how to make

The AIR BALLOON,

AND INJECT THE

INFLAMMABLE AIR.

A NEW EDITION,

WITH GREAT ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR W. LANE, LEADENHALL-STREET.

M, DCC, XCV.

Thr 1235.14.2

HARVARD
UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY
AUG 18 1971

70*135

PROSPECTUS

OF THE

Minerva

LITERARY MUSEUM, OR NOVEL REPOSITORY,

LEADENHALL-STREET,

LONDON.

TO

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

PATRONS OF ENTERTAINING LITERATURE.

THE great encouragement and ſupport our Plan has received from a generous Public, demands the utmoſt tribute of gratitude; and it is with pleaſure anounced, that ſince its commencement, Manuſcripts have been introduced receiving the general approbation.—The manner in which we have printed Works committed to our care will better ſpeak our attention and praiſe than any eulogium of language.

Ladies and Gentlemen, from this ſpecimen of our conduct will be ſure to have the efforts of their genius, and productions of their pen, introduced to the world in a ſtyle of ſuperiority—the printing will be executed with expedition, correctneſs, accuracy and elegance, and the paper equally correſpondent; and we preſume to aſſert, no pains, care, aſſiduity, or expence, ſhall be ſpared to merit the continuance of that opinion we have obtained: and we alſo equally affirm, we have never introduced any ſubjects but what are founded on the baſis of Virtue, and have tended to amend the underſtanding, and improve the heart.————Our ſtudy ſhall be to pleaſe, as this will equally add to our intereſt as reflect to our honor.

In addition to this propoſal, Authors, who wiſh to ren'er their talents of advantage, are informed, that a ſum from twenty five hundred pounds is ready for Works, whoſe merit may claim an adequate purchaſe, and notwithſtanding we now ſtand unrivalled in the public eſtimation, for Novels, Tales, Romances, Adventures, &c. yet, in this undertaking, works of a general nature, Originals, Tranſlations, Compilations on any Subjects which can entertain or improve the mind, add to the Arts and Sciences of this Kingdom, or be of any utility, will here find an aſylum.

From the great increaſe and general encouragement

CIRCULATING LIBRARIES

have received, and which are now eſtabliſhed in all parts of England, Scotland, Ireland, &c. an employ both reſpectable and genteel, ſuch as are deſirous of commencing, are informed that Books ſuitable for that purpoſe are kept ready bound, in Hiſtory, Voyages, Novels, Plays, &c. containing from One Hundred to Five Thouſand Volumes, which may be had at a few days notice, with a Catalogue for their Subſcribers, and inſtructions and directions how to plan, ſyſtemize and conduct the ſame.

Such are the general outlines of this ſpirited undertaking, a plan founded on propriety, and ſanctioned by the liberality and approbation of the public; and we ſhall be happy farther to improve the ſame, ſo as to render it the Muſeum of Entertainment, and a Repoſitory of Sciences, Arts, and Polite Literature.

I have the honor to be, with reſpect and gratitude,

Your very humble and obedient Servant,

WILLIAM LANE.

Public Library,
Leadenhall-Street.

LANE'S

NEW AND ENTERTAINING

NOVELS, TALES & ADVENTURES.

ELLEN,

COUNTESS OF

CASTLE HOWEL,

A NOVEL,

BY MRS. BENNETT.

Others make Men—I only report them.—*Montaine.*

In Four Volumes, 12mo. Price 12s. ſewed.

SUSANNA;

OR, TRAITS OF A

MODERN MISS,

In Four Volumes 12mo. Price 12s. ſewed.

MYSTIC COTTAGER,

OF

CHAMOUNY,

In Two Volumes 12mo. Price 6s. ſewed.

OFFSPRING OF RUSSELL,

In Two Volumes 12mo. Price 6s. ſewed.

JUVENILE INDISCRETIONS.

Then ſure no fault impartial ſatire knows,
Kind ev'n in vengeance, kind to Virtue's foes;
Whoſe is the crime that ſcandal to be theirs,
The knave and fool are their own libellers.

POPE'S SATIRE ON MAN.

In Five Volumes, 12mo. Price 15s. ſewed.

AGNES DE COURCI,

A DOMESTIC TALE,

(Inſcribed to Colonel Hunter)

In Four Volumes, 12mo. Price 12s. ſewed.

NOVELS, TALES & ADVENTURES.

MADELINE,

OR THE

CASTLE OF MONTGOMERY,

BY MRS. KELLY,

(Daughter of the late Colonel Kelly)

In Three Volumes, 12mo. Price 9s. ſewed.

COUNT RODERIC'S CASTLE,

In Two Volumes 12mo. Price 6s. ſewed.

LUCY,

In Three Volumes, 12mo. Price 9s. ſewed.

Where may be had her other Works

WOMAN AS SHE SHOULD BE,

In Four Volumes, 12mo. Price 12s. ſewed.

Dedicated, by Permiſſion, to her Royal Highneſs the Dutcheſs of Glouceſter.

This very pleaſing and inſtructive Work has met with an uncommon rapid Sale, and contains animating Examples for Young Women in their ſeveral Relations thro' Life, as Daughters, Wives, and Mothers; it abounds with excellent Sentiments and a Variety of pleaſing Incidents.

ERRORS OF EDUCATION,

In Three Volumes, 12mo. Price 10s. 6d ſewed.

Inſtability of mind impedes our road to perfection; and youth, if not animated by example to illuſtrate the precepts of Virtue, will ever fall into error.

LAVATER.

PREFACE.

AS the world is too apt to judge from appearances, and be prejudiced at firſt ſight, ſo, from the title of a book, they generally judge of its contents; and as their taſte for knowledge is to applaud or condemn, (perhaps without examining the contents) thoſe of a more ſerious caſt will give no countenance to this book merely from what they fancy it muſt contain, without taking the trouble to read it. To ſuch prejudiced perſons this preface, perhaps, may

may be of ſervice, to correct their opinions, and put them right with reſpect to its real merits. It does not by any means, recommend or encourage vice and idleneſs. The deſign of it is to amuſe, inſtruct, and promote innocent diverſions; to relieve and give new vigour to the mind. This muſt ſurely be admitted by the moſt rigid, unleſs their ideas are too ſublime for this lower world. Beſides the knowledge which this book conveys will wipe off many ill-grounded notions which ignorant people have imbibed. Some imagine that many deceptions cannot be performed without the aſſiſtance of the gentleman of the cloven foot, long ſince diſtinguiſhed by the appellation of Old Nick, from whence the original of this amuſing ſcience gained the name of the Black Art. Indeed, ſome ages back, when learning was confined to a few, ſelf-intereſted and deſigning perſons pretended to enchantment, and to hold intelligence with ſupernatural beings,

and

and one by their ſkill in chimiſtry and mathematics, ſo worked upon the ſenſes, that many were brought to believe in conjuration.

Every thing in this book has its riſe from nature; conſequently it is by no means criminal, and therefore may be recommended rather than exploded. Beſides it may be a guide to the artleſs not to be trifled with by thoſe who are capable of theſe deceptions; for, knowing how they may be done, they will not be liable to be impoſed on. To perform ſlight of hand well is a very difficult taſk, and what, though many pretend to, few are excellent in. It requires a good preſence, a quick eye, a nimble hand, and no ſmall ſhare of volubility; for not a little depends on amuſing the attention with ſome ſtrange ſtory or hard words while the tricks are performing; therefore any one, with a little practice, may, in a ſhort time, amuſe himſelf and friends by theſe agreeable,

agreeable, harmleſs, and whimſical diverſions.

The book will give you a ſhort and entertaining account of the planets, and their ſuppoſed influence on the world, with their names as diſtinguiſhed by aſtronomers in the celeſtial globe. The other parts will afford ſufficient matter for mirth and ſpeculation; ſo that the whole will form a complete companion for a leiſure hour; and, I doubt not, will be acceptable to all our readers both in town and country.

BRESLAW's LAST LEGACY, &c.

A DESCRIPTION *of the* AIR BALLOON, *with the Method how to make one, as hath lately been done both in France and England. The Twelve Signs of the Zodiac, &c.*

THE AIR BALLOON, which hath been lately ſo much the topic of converſation, and ſo much aſtoniſhed the gaping multitude, hath nothing ſo very wonderful in it as may by ſome be imagined. The idea of it, at firſt, was no doubt taken from children blowing bladders with ſoap-ſuds and a tobacco-pipe; which bubbles will aſcend till ſome rude touch breaks their texture.

The Air Balloon is, in effect, little more; and the manner of making it (the ſize of which may be greater or leſs, according to your own diſcretion) is as follows: Take a piece of taffata, or thin ſilk (on account of their lightneſs) and ſew it into the form intended; leaving a ſmall orifice for the admiſſion of the inflammable air. The taffata, or ſilk, with all the ſeams, muſt be ſtrongly gummed ſeveral times over, in order effectually to keep out the common air, and prevent the artificial air from tranſpiring. Its moſt proper form ſhould be orbical or round, as it will not only aſcend the higher but the ſteadier, the atmoſphere air ſurrounding it with more force, and impelling it with greater certainty.

When your Ballon is thoroughly completed with reſpect to its form, you muſt then fill it with inflammable air, the manner of doing which is as follows:

Take a glaſs bottle, or veſſel whatever ſize you may want, put into it a quantity of oil of vitriol, with ſome iron fillings or old nails; then pour on it ſome clear water, and it will ſoon begin to ferment; and if not prevented by ſtopping it cloſe, aſcend in ſmoke to a great height. This air muſt

muſt be conveyed into the Balloon by means of a glaſs tube or crane, which muſt be well ſecured at each end, and as the fermentation increaſes, the Balloon will fill. When you have got a ſufficiency of the air, you muſt draw the neck tight with a ſtring fixed on purpoſe, and from this moment it becomes ſo much a lighter body, that it would immediately aſcend, if not reſtrained by a proportionate balance. Before you begin to inject the inflammable air, make the parts again ſecure with gum, or ſome other glutinous compoſition; and after all, you may, if you think proper, gild over the whole. This, when unconfined, will float in the air for a long time, and continually do ſo until the inflammable air finds a vent, when it will gradually deſcend.

The Air Balloon, conſtructed by Mr. Biaggini, and let off in the Artillery-ground. Moorfields, was ten feet diameter, and went to a ſurpriſing height, to the great aſtoniſhment of ſome thouſands of ſpectators; but they may be nade as ſmall as you pleaſe, and will float about in a room, and ſerve as a pleaſant amuſement.

Mr. Biaggini has ſince made another Air Balloon, ſixteen feet in diameter,

which was, for ſome time, exhibited at the Pantheon in Oxford-ſtreet.

With reſpect to the rate at which theſe Balloons paſs in the air, it is conjectured (from the average calculation of experiments which have been made) to be not leſs than fifteen miles an hour, without allowing for the obſtructions it is ſubject to meet with from the ſhiftings of the wind.

Such is the deſcription of the famous Air Balloon, which has ſo much attracted the attention of the curious, both in France and in England; and which, though at preſent only a matter of mere curioſity, may in time be ſo improved as to become a matter of public utility.

As a father illuſtration of the nature of the Air Balloon, and the improvements it hath lately received, it may not be improper to ſubjoin an account of that let off in France, the particulars of which were ſent by a gentleman in Paris, to Dr. Letſom in London. and which are as follow:

" On Monday, the 1ſt of December 1783, an Air Balloon, under the direction of Meſſrs. Charles and Roberts, was let off from the Thuilleries. It had ſuſpended to it a baſket, covered with blue ſilk and paper finely gilt, in the ſhape of a tri-

a triumphal car, in which Mr. Charles and Mr. Roberts embarked, and mounted up into the air, amidſt many thouſands of people of all ranks and conditions, among whom were ſeveral foreign princes, and great numbers of the nobility of France. The philoſophers had flags with them of different colours, with which, as they mounted aloft, they ſaluted the admiring world below. When they came to the height at which they meant to go (which was computed to be about twice the height of St. Paul's, London) they threw down a flag as agreed. They then glided along a ſteady horizontal track over the Fauxbourg St. Honore, ſaluting the people, as they went along with their flags; and landed at about 20 miles diſtance from the place they ſet out from, being followed by the Duke de Chartres, and ſeveral of the French and Engliſh nobility and gentry, who came in almoſt at they landing. Mr. Roberts then got out, when Mr. Charles, after throwing out ſome ballaſt to lighten the machine, aſcending alone in the Balloon, to the almoſt incredible height of 15026 toiſes, or 3052 yards perpendicular, in about ten minutes.

The account Mr. Charles gives of his obſervations during this time, is,

that he loſt ſight of every thing below upon earth, and ſaw nothing but a wide expanſe of fine æther—that the barometer fell from 28 to 18, and the thermometar from 7 above freezing, to 5 below it. He deſcended about four or five miles from the ſpot he got up at, near the houſe of a Mr. Farrar, an Engliſh gentlemen, weere he ſlept that night, and was brought to town by a nobleman in his own carriage the next day, amidſt the general acclamations of the public.

The Balloon was compoſed of red and ſtraw-coloured taffata, pierced alternately, ſo as to appear like meridional lines upon a terreſtrial globe. The upper hemiſphere was covered with a netting, ſurrounded at the bottom by a hoop, to which the cor was ſuſpended; ſo that the elaſtic preſſere of the inflammable air was equally repreſſed by all the meſhes of the net above."

Having thus given an accurate and ample deſcription of the Air Balloon, with the proper method of making it, we ſhall now proceed to give ſome acceunt of the power of the planets, as deſcribed by the moſt learned and ingenious aſtronomers. As it is generally believed that the planets have ſome influence oven human bodies. it is neceſſary to

to ſhews what their aſcendancies are over them, according to what planet ruled at their birth. In order to this, we ſhall firſt take notice of the names of the twelve ſigns in the Zodiac, which are as follow:

One,	*Aris*
Two,	*Taurus*
Three,	*Gemini*
Four,	*Cancer*
Five,	*Leo*
Six,	*Virgo*
Seven,	*Libra*
Eight,	*Scorpio*
Nine,	*Sagittarius*
Ten,	*Capricorn*
Eleven,	*Aquarius*
Twelve,	*Piſces*

Theſe ſigns are repreſented in the celeſtial glove by the following figures:

Aris	The Ram
Taurus,	The Bull
Gemini,	The Twins
Cancer,	The Crab
Leo,	The Lion
Virgo,	The Virgin
Libra,	The Scales
Scorpio,	The Scorpion

Sagittarius,	The Archer
Capricorn,	The Sea Goat
Aquarius,	The Water Pot
Piſces,	The Fiſher

Theſe ſigns are placed round the Zodiac in form of a girdle; but we will deſcribe more fully the order in which they ſtand, and in what manner they follow each other.

The Ram, the Bull, the Heav'nly Twins,
The next the Crab and Lion ſhines;
The Virgins, and the Scales,
The Scorpian, Archer, and Sea Goat,
The Man that holds the Water Pot,
And Fiſh with glitt'ring Tales.

Having thus given a deſcription of the ſigns, we ſhall mention the plannets which govern the ſevern days of the week.

Firſt,	*Sun*
Second	*Moon*
Third,	*Mars*
Fourth,	*Mercury*
Fifth,	*Jupiter*
Sixth.	*Venus*
Seventh,	*Saturn*

The

The planets govern as follows:

Sun,	Sunday
Moon,	Monday
Mars,	Tueſday
Mercury,	Wedneſday
Jupiter,	Thurſday
Venus,	Friday
Saturn,	Saturdy

Theſe govern the days, and the ſigns govern the months.

Aries,	March
Taurus,	April
Gemini,	May
Cancer,	June
Leo,	July
Virgo,	Auguſt
Libra,	September
Scorpio	October
Sagittarius,	November
Capricorn,	December
Aquarious	January
Piſces,	February

And now it will not be amiſs to give ſome account of the nature and diſpoſition of ſuch perſons who are born under the above ſigns.

Thoſe who are born under *Aris*, (that is in March) will be very active, and of a ſtrong memory; fond of going up hills and high places; wantonly inclined, and very merry, and not a little addicted to paſſion; if born of a Tueſday, they will be great fighters, as that day is governed by *Mars*.

Thoſe who are born under *Taurus* (that is in April) will be ſtrong in the head; have commonly thick necks and broad ſhoulders; will be great eaters; liable to receive hurts in their heads and legs, and are ſeldom long lived.

Thoſe born under *Gemini*, (that is May) are moſtly ſlender and delicate, ſubject to ſickneſs, are of a mild diſpoſition, and capable of true love and ſincere friendſhip; but ſeldom live to be old; if born on a Sunday it promiſes they will be rich.

Thoſe born under *Cancer* (that is June) are inclined to be ſhort and corpulent, have a jumping gait when they walk, are fond of the water, ſubject to eruptions and chronic diſorders; and are generally very vicious in love.

Thoſe born under Leo (that is July) will be bold and enterpriſing; likely to receive honours; are of a noble and generous diſpoſition; have a great ſhare of under-

underſtanding, and are particularly happy in their friends.

Thoſe who are born under *Virgo* (that is Auguſt) are of a ſly and artful diſpoſition; have little ſhare of ſenſe or addreſs, and generally live ſingle.

Thoſe born under *Libra* (which is September) are of a delicate conſtitution; ſenſible; rather haſty; admired by the women; and proſperous through life.

Thoſe who are born under *Scorpio* (that is October) are ſpiteful and paſſionate, have good ſenſe, but are deceitful in friendſhip; are much given to women, but ſeldom happy in their connections; are likely to have many children; impoſe on others; and often get impoſed on themſelves; and very impatient under affliction.

Thoſe who are born under *Sagittarius* (that is November) will be meek, wiſe, and diſcreet; rather grave than gay, and fond of retirement. They are ſincere in love and friendſhip; often marry very young, but have few children; meet with many croſſes in life; but commonly end their days in happineſs.

Thoſe born under *Capricorn* (that is December) will be great travellers, and go by ſea to diſtant countries, be ſubject to many dangers, but will ſurmount

them and become wealthy and eminent.

Thoſe born under *Aquarius* (that is January) are uſually of a ſweet and affable temper, and will be happy in great poſſeſſions; are kind to their friends; good-natured, agreeable, handſome, and very liberal in their favours; bleſt in their loves, have many children, and live to agreat age.

Thoſe under *Piſces* (that is February) will get wealth by trade, and merchandize abroad; are ſubject to cold diſorders, and are of a phlegmatic conſtitution; live happy in the married ſtate, and have many children, generally ſons, who ſucceed to their father's wealth and poſſeſſions.

Thus much for prognoſtication of the ſigns and planets; by which any one may gueſs at the diſpoſitions and tempers of thoſe to whom they pay their addreſſes, if they can learn the month in which the party was born. But as this book is to conſiſt of a variety of ſubjects, we ſhall ſay no more on this, but proceed to other matters, equally curious and entertaining.

To make Sport, and cauſe Mirth with Quich-ſilver.

This volatile mineral will afford many curious experiments, none of which are more pleaſing than the following: boil an egg, and while it is hot make a ſmall hole at one end, then put in a little quick-ſilver, ſeal up the hole with ſealing wax, and then leave it on a table, or any where elſe, when it will not ceaſe to fly about while there is any warmth in it, or till it is broken in pieces.

Another Trick with Quick-ſilver.

An old woman on a Sunday was making dumplings, when two of her grand-ſons came to ſee her, and being merrily inclined, while her back was turned, conveyed ſome quick-ſilver into the dough, and then took their leave. The old woman left the cooking to the care of her grand-daughter, and went herſelf to church. charging her to be careful, and ſkim the pot, in which was to be boiled the dumblings and a leg of mutton; the girl was very careful to watch when

when the pot boiled, when taking off the cover, out jumped a dumbling, which ſhe inſtantly put in again, when out flew another, and another after that, which ſo terrified the girl, that ſhe ran with all ſpeed to the church: the old woman ſeeing her come in, held up her hand, ſhook her head, winked at her, as much as to ſay, be gone; at laſt the girl cried out, before all the congregation, "all your nodding and winking does not ſignify, for the leg of mutton has beat the dumplings out of the pot." This cauſed much laghing; and her two grandſons, being then on their knees, ſaw plainly the pleaſing effect of their experiment: but to play tricks with quick-ſilver ſhould be done with great care, as it is very dangerous.

To make a Sixpence ſeem to fall through a Table.

To perform this trich you muſt have a handkerchief with a counter, the ſame ſize as a ſix-pence, ſewed in one corner of it; take your handkerchief out of your pocket, and aſk one of the company to lend you ſix-pence, which you muſt ſeem carefully to wrap up in the midſt

midſt of the handkerchief; but, at the ſame time, keep the ſix-pence in the palm of your hand, and in its ſtead, wrap the corner that is ſewed into the middle of the hankerchief, and bid them feel, and they will believe the ſix-pence is there which they had lent you; then lay under a hat upon the table: take a glaſs or tea cup in that hand the ſix-pence is in, and hold under the table; and, to carry on the deception, knock upon the table three times, making uſe of ſuch words as "*Vad, come quickly, Preſtow*;" at the ſame time, letting the ſix-pence drop from your hand into the glaſs; taking up the handkerchief and ſhaking it, take care to hold it by the corner the counter is in: this trick, however eaſy to perform, ſeems ſtrange, if done without bungling.

The Viſible Inviſible.

Various are the tricks and fancies made uſe of to amuſe and ſurpriſe by the nimble-fingured gentry, who exhibit for a livelihood, and gain a comfortable ſubſiſtence from the gaping audiences.

The aſtoniſhment of the ſpectators encreaſes as their ſenſes are impoſed upon:

in

in fact, they themſelves (though they do not know it) aſſiſt the deceit! for, being more attentive to the trick than to the performer of it, they cannot ſee or comprehend how it is done; when, were they acquainted with the manner, a little practice would make them capable of doing the ſame.

But as people will be amuſed by ſome means or other, according to their different diſpoſitions, ſo thoſe who practiſe theſe diverſions, are in the right to vary their ſcenes as much as they can, and as often as poſſible introduce ſomething new. Novelty has a charm the moſt attractive imaginable; yet they ſhould be careful, in theſe attempts, not to promiſe too much, and well conſider that what they have to offer will bear the teſt of ſcrutiny, leſt they become the ſcoff and ridicule of their auditors, inſtead of their admiration.

A certain gentlemen, well known for his talents in the deceptive arts, a few years back, brought together a great number of genteel people at the Lebeck's Head, in the Strand.

His bills ſet forth a wonderful new diſcovery, which was to ſurpriſe and aſtoniſh all the beholders; and he called it the *Viſible Inviſible:* his apparatus was a large

a large looking-glaſs, on which was diſplayed a variety of devices, and ſome very pretty verſes, deſcriptive and applicaple to his deſign: this was handed round the company, who having read it very plainly, he took his handkerchief and wiped it all out, and the glaſs appeared without the leaſt mark whatever; but on his deſiring any one to breathe upon it, the writing and characters became as viſible as ever.

This was really aſtoniſhing to many preſent; but ſome gentlemen, being well acquainted with the manner it was done, and knowing it was too trifling to pay half-a-crown for ſo ſimple a thing, declared againſt the impoſition, and undeceived the audience, by ſhewing the deception was nothing more than French chalk; this ſet the whole place in an uproar, and vengeance was declared againſt the performer, who with the utmoſt precipitation, was endeavouring to make his eſcape out of the window to avoid their fury; but being prevented, he was brought back to the audience, where, having aſked pardon on his knees, and returning the money, he afterwards told them, and told them truly, if he had got off with the money, he ſhould have been *inviſible*; but, as it was, he

was

was *viſible*; after breaking his glaſs, he was ſuffered to depart.

The French chalk is a compound of a greaſy but extraordinary nature, and has been often made uſe of to draw portraits upon looking-glaſſes, when the picture may be viſible, or invisible as the poſſeſſor thinks proper, only by breathing or wiping of it, and it will continue ſo for many months.

Mr. Conjurer declared he gave five guineas for the ſecret, and it muſt be confeſſed he bought the bargain.

To faſten a a Ring or a ſix-pence at the End of a Piece of common Thread, and after burning the Thread, to leave the Ring hanging at the End of it.

There are many ways to deceive the eye, which are not eaſily comprehended; and, till they come to be explained, cannot be accounted for.

More deceptions are performed at ſuch a diſtance from the audience, as they cannot (however quick-ſighted) penetrate into the myſtery; and when they are brought ſo near as to be examined, even by the touch, and yet to remain in the dark, the wonder becomes greater.

The

The trick I am going to relate is one of the laſt mentioned ſort, and has puzzled many of the moſt learned in thoſe matters for ſeveral years.

A Palatine girl uſed to make a comfortable livelihood, and even ſupported her parents, by going from public-houſe to public houſe, and exhibiting the following device:

She tied a rink or ſix-pence to the end of a piece of thread, which was ſuſpended from a pin, placed for that purpoſe, and let any one ſet fire to the thread, which, to all appearence, was burnt to aſhes, and yet the ring remained hanging to the end of it. This was eagerly ſought after by all the great maſters in the legerdemain art, but without ſucceſs; the moment they made the experiment, and the thread was burnt, the ring fell to the ground; they were confounded; and the more they tried the more they were at a loſs.

Many offered to purchaſe the ſecret from the girl, but ſhe remained inflexible; ſhe rightly conſidered that a trifling ſum for the preſent would deprive her of her future livelihood; but fate, at laſt, contrived againſt her fortune. She was takin ill, and being deſtitute of even the common neceſſaries of life, was prevailed upon

upon to communicate the whole of her art to the celebrated Mr. *Jonas*, who generouſly rewarded her with half a guinea.

This trick, which really is ſurpriſing, is done by the moſt ſimple means imaginable; all the art lies in preparing the thread, which is done as follows: ſhe uſed to ſoak the thread in ſalt and water for ſome time, and then dry it before the fire; the ſaline particles adhering to the thread, though imperceptible, immediately caught the flame of the candle, and burnt like ſo much tow, yet although it ſeemed to burned, it really preſerved the body of the thread, which remained firm, and undeminiſhed; yet, when touched, it became pulverized, and crumbled to aſhes: thus from the moſt ſimple things, the moſt aſtoniſhing performances are exhibited. It is left to thoſe moſt converſant in chymiſtry to inveſtigate the nature of ſalt, and ſhew why it ſhould act in ſuch a manner as before deſcribed. Perhaps, if the curious were to ſearch with care, many more extraordinary experiments might be made, not only to emuſe the ſight, but to inſtruct and improve the mind, and become an univerſal benefit to the world in general.

THE LEARNED LITTLE SWAN,

One of Mr. BRESLAW'S *Grand Deceptions.*

Deceptions in the mathematics are generally the moſt ſurpriſing, and ſtrike the fancy in an aſtoniſhing manner; theſe though moſt of them are commonly known, never fail to ſecure applauſe.

Mr. Breſlaw has been uncommonly ſucceſsful in this way. Whether he gained his knowledge by dint of application and ſtudy, an acquaintance with ſcience, or whether he has collected them from different maſters in the ſame art, is not for me to determine; it is ſufficient to ſay, that is ſkill has met with reward, as well as praiſe.—Not that ſuch things are of any real ſervice to the community, or are to be recommended as neceſſary qualifications to complete an education, yet there can be no manner of harm in being acquainted with them. Real ſcience lifts its eye to nobler purſuits, yet it may not be amiſs to relax ſometimes with curious trifles. This fancy I am going to relate is one of the principal of the kind. A large marble

or

or china bowl is painted withinſide the rim, with the letters contained in the alphabet.—A ſmall artificial ſwan is ſet to ſwim in the ſcentre of the water it contains—the performer bids any one call for a letter; upon naming the letter, the ſwan quits its ſtation in the middle, and goes directly to the letter mentioned; or if it is deſired, will pick out the whole of what compoſes your name. This, no doubt, is looked upon with aſtoniſhment! to think that a thing inanimate, made of a bit of painted cork, ſhould be capable of ſuch things.

But this amazement will vaniſh, when it is know, that a ſmall ſteel or Iron pin is fixed withinſide the ſwan, and that the performer has a magnet in his pocket, by which means, as he moves round the table, it attracts the ſwan to every letter where it is wanted to ſtop at, till it forms the name of what is required.

The nature of the magnet being kñown. many curious experiments have been made with it; a knife, or any other piece of iron touched with the load-ſtone, will bring up nails or needles out of a pail of water, or by rubbing round the outſide on the bottom of a pewter plate, will cauſe needles, or any thing made of iron or ſteel, to dance, and move about juſt

juſt as you direct it on the out-ſide—The performer, ſecure as he thought himſelf in this divice, was a little diſconcerted one evening in the haymarket—The late Sir Frances Blake Delaval, going to ſee his exhibition, took a magnet in his pocket, and facing Mr. Breſlaw on the oppoſite ſide the table, the ſwan between the two attractive inſtruments became fixed in the middle; the artiſt perceiving he could not perform as uſual, exclaimed there was ſomebody in the room was in the ſecret, and who counteracted his intention. Sir Frances ſmiled, ſhewed his magnet, and the trick became no longer wonderful, and the audience were no longer amazed at his abilities; ſo that he was obliged to ſeek for freſh matter to ſupply the place of his little cygnet.

Strange ſtories are related of the virtues and powers of the load-ſtone, one of which we ſhall relate for its ſingularity.

A gentlemen travelling in foreign parts, happened to be benighted, far from any place of accommodation; to avoid the drearineſs of the night, in a ſtrange place, he thought it adviſeable to ſeek for ſome ſhelter, and having diſcovered a cave, he diſmounted his horſe, whom he faſtened by the bridle on the

outſide of the cave, and then went in and laid himſelf down in his clothes, and being much fatigued fell faſt a ſleep, nor did he awake till the day light appeared, when to his great aſtoniſhment, he found himſelf ſuſpended by the heels from the roof of the cave. He made many efforts to free himſelf from ſo diſagreeable a ſituation, when at length he ſhuffled his legs out of his boots, and came to the ground almoſt ſtunned wtih the fall; when looking up, he perceived the cauſe of this diſaſter was owing to the cave being formed out of a rock of load-ſtone, and he having ſteal ſpurs on, was attracted up in the manner deſcribed; ſome ſay the boots are hanging there yet: others ſeriouſly relate, that the coffin of Mahomet, which is iron, is ſuſpended in the temple of Mecca between two load-ſtones, and ſeems to hang only in air, which the bigotted muſſelmen look upon as a miracle.

To call for any Card in the Pack.

This trick, which requires very little practice or indeed underſtanding, to perform, is done in the following manner:

Having privately ſeen a card, put it at the bottom of the pack, then ſhuffle the cards till it comes to the bottom again, then put the cards behind you; and ſay here I call for, naming the bottom, card which you have ſeen; and as you hold them behind you, turn the top card with its face upwards, then hold forth the cards, and as you hold them you may ſee what the next card is; then put the cards behind you again, and take the top card, and put it at the bottom, with its face downwards, and turn the next card with its face upwards, and whilſt you are doing this, ſay, here I call for, naming the card you ſaw laſt; then hold fourth the cards again, ſhewing the bottom card, which will be that you call for; then put the cards behind you again, and proceed in the ſame manner as you did before; you may by this method go through them all, and call for all the cards in the pack, to the admiration of the beholders, who will be ſur-

priſed how you could find them out when you hold them behind you.

To ſhuffle Cards in ſuch a Manner as always to keep one certain Card at the Bottom.

A perſon with a hard hand and ſtiff joints ſhould never think of playing deceptions with the cards, as clumſy fingers will not do. In ſhewing tricks with cards, the principal point conſiſts in ſhuffling them nimbly, and yet keeping one certain card, either at the bottom or in ſome known place of the pack, four or five cards from the bottom; for by this, you may ſeem to work wonders; ſince it is eaſy for you to ſee, or take notice of a card; which though you are perceived to do, it will not be ſuſpected if you ſhuffle them well together, afterwards, by the method here to be taught, which is this: in ſhuffling let the bottom card be always kept a little before, or, which is beſt, a little behind all the reſt of the cards; put it a little beyond the reſt before, right over your fore-finger, or elſe, which is the beſt, a little behind the reſt, ſo as the little finger of the left hand may ſlip up, and meet with it at the

the firſt ſhuffle as thick as you can, and at laſt, thrown upon the board the bottom card, with as many more as you would preſerve for any purpoſe, a little before or a little behind the reſt? and be ſure to let your fore-finger, (if the pack be laid before) or your little finger, (if the pack be laid behind) always creep up to meet with the bottom card, and when you feel it, you may there old it till you have ſhuffled over again, which being done, the card which was firſt at the bottom will come there again; thus you may ſhuffle them before their faces, and yet leave your noted card at the bottom; you muſt try to be very perfect in this method of ſhuffling; and having once attained it, you may do almoſt what you pleaſe; for whatever pack you make, though it is ten, twelve, or twenty cards, you may ſtill keep it next the bottom, and yet ſhuffle them often, to pleaſe the curious.

How to make a Card jump out of the Pack and run on the Table.

This is a wonderful fancy if it be well handled; as thus:

Take a pack of cards, and let any one

draw any card that they fancy beſt, and afterwards take and put it into the pack, but ſo as you know where to find it at pleaſure; for by this time I ſuppoſe you know how to ſhuffle the cards, and where to find any card when it is put into the pack; then take a piece of wax and put it under the thumb-nail of your right-hand, and there faſten a hair to your thumb, and the other end of the hair to the card; then ſpread the pack of cards open on the table: then ſay, *If you are a pure virgin the card will jump out of the pack*; then by your words or charms ſeem to make it jump on the table.

How to tell what Card any Man thinketh on, and how to convey the ſame into a Kernel of a Nut or Cherry-ſtone, and the ſame again in one's Pocket; and how to make him draw the ſame, or any Card you pleaſe, and all under one Device.

Take a nut, or cherry-ſtone, and burn a hole through the ſide of the top of the ſhell, and alſo through the kernel if you will, with a hot bodkin, or bore it with an awl, and with a needle pull out the kernel, ſo as the ſame may be as wide as the hole of the ſhell; then write the

the name of the card on a piece of fine paper, and roll it up hard, then put it into the nut or cherry-ſtone, and ſtop the hole up with wax, and rub the ſame over with a little duſt, and it will not be perceived: then let ſome ſtander-by draw a card, ſaying, *It is no matter what card you draw:* and if your hands ſo ſerve you to uſe the card well, you ſhall proffer him, and he ſhall receive the ſame card that you have rolled up in the nut; then take another nut, and fill it up with ink, and then ſtop the hole up with wax, and then give that nut which is filled with ink to ſome boy to crack, and when he finds the ink come out of his mouth, it will cauſe great laughter. By this feat on the cards, many wonders may be done.

How to let twenty Gentlemen draw twenty Cards, and to make one Card every Man's Card.

Take a pack of cards, let any gentleman draw a card, and let him put it in the pack again, but be you ſure that you know where to find it again at pleaſure; then ſhuffle the cards again as you are taught before, and then let another gentleman draw a card, but be ſure that

you let him draw no other but the ſame card as the other did draw, and ſo till 10 or 12, or as many cards as you think fit: when you have ſo done, let another gentleman draw another card, but not the ſame, and put the card into the pack where you have kept the other card, and ſhuffle them till you have brought both the cards together; then ſhewing the laſt card to the company, the other will ſhew the trick. By this means many other feats may be done.

How to change a Pack of Cards into all manner of Pictures.

You muſt take a pack of cards, and paint upon the back-ſide of one half of the pack, what manner of figures ſhall pleaſe your fancy beſt; as men, women, birds, flowers, &c. Then paint the other half of the cards, viz, on that ſide where the ſpots are on, after the ſame manner you did the other half; ſo between them both you will have a compleat pack of all pictures: and when you will perform this trick, you muſt ſhew the cards but half-way. This is one of the beſt tricks on the cards.

To make the Conſtable catch the Knave.

Take a pack of cards, and look out the four knaves; lay one of them privately on the top of the pack, and lay the other three down upon the table, ſaying, *Here you ſee are three Knaves got together, about no good you may be ſure.* Then lay down a king beſide them, ſaying, *But here comes the conſtable, and catches them together: Oh,* (ſays he) *have I caugh you together? Well, the next time I catch you together, I'll puniſh you ſeverely for all your rogueries. Oh, but* (ſay they) *you ſhan't catch us together in haſte:* for they conclude to run three ſeveral ways. *Well, I'll go here* (ſays one,) ſo take one of the knaves and put him at the top of the pack; *And I'll go here* (ſays another,) ſo put him at the bottom; *Then I'll go here* (ſays the other,) ſo put him in the middle; *Nay* (ſays the conſtable,) *if you run I'll make ſure of one, ſo I'll follow the firſt:* then take the king and put him at the top, and let any one cut the cards aſunder two or three times, then deal out the cards one by one, and you ſhall find three

knaves together, and the conſtable with them.

Note. This feat would be beſt done with a pack of cards that has two knaves of that ſort of which you put one in the middle.

How to make a Card jump out of an Egg.

To do this wonderful feat you muſt have two ſticks made both of one bigneſs, and both of a likeneſs, ſo that no perſon can know one from the other; one of theſe ſticks muſt be made ſo artificially as to conceal a card in the middle, as thus: you muſt have one of your ſticks turned hollow quite through; and then an artificial ſpring to through the card in the egg at your pleaſure. The operation is thus: take and peal any card in the pack, which you pleaſe, and ſo roll it up, and then put it into your falſe ſtick, and there let it be till you have occaſion to make uſe of it; then take a pack of cards, and let any body draw a card, but be ſure let it be the ſame ſort of card that you have in the ſtick already; then let them put it in the pack again, and when you have ſhuffled them, let that card fall into your lap which the party drew:

drew: ſo calling for ſome eggs, deſire the party that drew the card, or any other perſon in the company, to chuſe any one of theſe eggs; and when they have choſen one, aſk them if their be any thing in it, and they will anſwer, No: then take the egg in your left, hand and the falſe ſtick in your right, and ſo break the egg with your ſtick; then let the ſpring go, and the card will appear in the egg, very amazing to the beholders! then conceal that ſtick, and produce the true one upon the table.

A pleaſing Trick by Figures.

The perſon who performs the trick muſt write down four figures, which being ſeen by the company, he is privately to mark down the ſum that thoſe figures, with another four under them marked by one of the company, and a third row by himſelf, ſhall amount to. The performer marks 1 2 3 4, and then privately the ſum the three rows will make, which let the perſon in company mark what figures he will in the ſecond row, the third marked by the performer ſhall make the ſum total 11233. As for inſtance.

The performer marks	1234
The perſon in company	5678
The performer	4321
	11233

This trick is done by the performer adding the figure 1 at the beginning of the firſt number, and making the laſt figure 1 leſs. Whatever figures are marked in the ſecond row, the performer is to mark ſuch under them as will make the figures in the two laſt rows tell for nine, when the ſum total will amount to the ſum privately marked by the performer.

Another Trick by Figures.

Tell any perſon to think of what number they pleaſe, which being done, tell them to double that number; then to add what number you think proper; then to halve the whole; then to take away the firſt number they thought of and you will tell them the remainder.

To explain this trick, ſuppoſe the perſon thinks of 12, you tell them to double it, which makes 24; you then tell him to add 10 to it, which makes 34; then to halve the whole, which reduces it to 17;

17; then take away the firſt number he thought of, which is 12; and the remainder will be 5.

The doing of this trink is directed by a more infalliable rule; for whatever even ſum you tell them to *add*, the remainder (as in the caſe above) will always be *half* that number.

Geographical Paradoxes.

There is nothing more entertaining or diverting than paradoxes, and the following geographical ones we flatter ourſelves will be acceptable to our readers.

PARADOX. I.

There is a certain place of the earth, in a conſiderable northern latitude, where though the days and nights, even when ſhorteſt, do conſiſt of ſeveral hours, yet in that place it is noon day every half hour.

Solution. Under the North Pole, where the ſun, when viſible, is always ſeen due ſouth; and conſequently it is not only noon every half hour, but every minute.

Paradox II.

There is a noted place on the earth, where the ſun and the moon, even when at full, may both happen to riſe at the ſame time; and upon the ſame point of the compaſs.

Solution. Under the North Pole, the ſun and the full moon, both decreaſing in ſouth declination, may riſe in the equinoxial points at the ſame time; and under the North Pole, there is no other point of compaſs but ſouth.

Paradox III.

There are two remarkable places on the globe of the earth, in which there is only one day, and one night, throughout the whole year.

Solution. Theſe places are the two poles.

Paradox IV.

There is a certain iſland in the Levant, upon which, if two children born at the ſame time and living together for ſeveral years, ſhould both die at the ſame time, yet the life of the one would ſurpaſs

ſurpaſs that of the other by ſeveral months.

Solution. If one of the perſons travel eaſt, and the other weſt, round the globe, which may be done in a year, there will be two days difference in their account of time; and if this travelling be continued for forty years, there will be eighty days difference in their reckonings; and ſo many days older will he be that travelled eaſtward, than he that travelled weſtward.

PARADOX V.

Some perſons talking of the variety of buſineſs they had ſeen one man do, in a ſhort time, was interrupted by a perſon, who ſaid, he had ſee a man, who in one artificial day, could do as much buſineſs as an hundred ſuch men as they had been talking of.

Solution. In one of the long days, between the ſun-riſing and ſetting, in the frigid zone, as the days there are half a year long.

PARADOX VI.

A very great traveller aſſerted, that he had ſeen Whitſunday fall on the longeſt day,

day, on the ſhorteſt day, and on the day when the days and nights are equal.

Solution. In the year 1739, the ſun entered the ſign Cancer, on Whitſun-day, being the longeſt day in north latitude, the ſhorteſt in ſouth latitude, and under the equator equal day and night. Now the traveller croſſing the line on that day, ſees every article aſſerted.

PARADOX VII.

There is a certain place in the iſland of Great-Britain, where the ſtars are always viſible at any time of the day, if the horizon be not overcaſt.

Solution. In a deep well, or a coal pit, the ſurrounding light, which the atmoſphere ſpreads in the open air, is removed from the ſight, ſo that if the ſhaft of the well, or the pit be ſtraight, thoſe ſtars near the zenith will be readily ſeen.

PARADOX VIII.

There is a certain city in the ſouthern part of China, whoſe inhabitants (both male and female) when walking or ſtanding, do obſerve much the ſame poſture as the Europeans, and yet they frequently

ly appear to ſtrangers, as if they ſtood or walked on their heads.

Solution. People on each ſide of a canal, or river of water, ſee the images of one another in the water, with the head downwards, and ſo are the people of China ſeen in their rivers, by the Europeans from their ſhips.

PARADOX IX.

There is a certain city, whoſe buildings being generally of firm ſtone, are for the moſt part of a prodigious height, and exceeding ſtrong, and yet it is moſt certain, that the walls of not one houſe in the whole city are parellel to one another, nor perpendicular to the plane on which the middle of the houſe ſtands.

Solution. Every builder endeavours to raiſe walls perpendicular to the level of the ſpot they ſtand upon, in a line directed towards the center of the earth: conſequently two ſuch walls are not equal or parallel; and geometry ſhews, that no other line drawn perpendicular to a tangent, beſide that at the point of contract, is directed towards the center.

PARADOX X.

There is a remarkable river, on the continent of Europe, over which there is a bridge of ſuch a breadth, that above three thouſand men may paſs along a-breaſt, and that without crowding one another in the leaſt.

Solution. There are rivers which in ſome part of their courſe, run under ground for a conſiderable way, of two, or three miles, which is breadth ſufficient for three thouſand men to walk abreaſt of one another; allowing there were more than three feet ſpace for each man to walk on.

THE EXTRAORDINARY WITCH.

On Sunday 15th of November, 1657. about three of the clock in the afternoon, Richard Jones, then a ſprightly youth about twelve years old, ſon of Henry Jones of Shepton Mallet, in the county of Somerſet, being in his father's houſe alone, and perceiving one looking in at the window, went to the door, where one

one Jane Brooks of the ſame town (but then by name unknown to this boy) came to him. She deſired him to give her a piece of cloſe bread, and gave him an apple. After which ſhe alſo ſtroked him down on the right ſide, ſhook him by the hand, and ſo bid him good night. The youth returned into the houſe, where he had been well, when his father and one Gibſon went from him; but at their return, which was within an hour or thereabout, they found him ill, and complaining of his right ſide, in which the pain continued for moſt part of that night. And on Monday following in the evening, the boy roaſted the apple he had of Jane Brooks, and having eat about half of it, was extremely ill, and ſometimes ſpeechleſs, but being recovered, he told his father that a woman of the town on Sunday before, had given him that apple, and that ſhe ſtroked him on the ſide. He ſaid he knew not her name, but ſhould her perſon if he ſaw her. Upon this Jones was adviſed to invite the women of Shepton to come to his houſe, upon the occaſion of his ſon's illneſs, and the child told him, that in caſe the woman ſhould come in when he was in his fit, if he were not able to ſpeak, he would give him an intimation by a jog, and deſired

fired that his father would lead him through the room, for he would put his hand upon her, if ſhe was there. After this, he continuing very ill, many women came daily to ſee him. And Jane Brooks, the Sunday after, came in with two of her ſiſters, and ſeveral other women of the neighbourhood were there.

Upon her coming in, the boy was taken ſo ill, that for ſome time he could not ſee nor ſpeak, but having recovered his ſight, he gave his father the item, and led him about the room. The boy drew towards Jane Brooks, who was behind her two ſiſters among the other women, and put his hand upon her, which his father perceiving, immediately ſcratched her face and drew blood from her. The youth then preſently crying out that he was well, and ſo he continued ſeven or eight days. But then meeting with Alice Coward, ſiſter to Jane Brooks, who paſſing by, ſaid to him, "How do you do, my honey," he preſently fell ill again. And after that, the ſaid Coward and Brooks often appeared to him. The boy would deſcribe the cloaths and habit they were in at the time exactly, as the conſtable and others have found upon repairing to them, though Brooks's houſe was at a good diſtance from Jones's.

This

This they often tried, and always found the boy right in his deſcriptions.

On a certain Sunday about noon, the child being in a room with his father and one Gibſon, and in his fit, he on a ſudden called out, that he ſaw Jane Brooks on the wall, and pointed to the place, where immediately Gibſon ſtruck with a knife. Upon which the boy cried out, (O father, couz Gibſon hath cut Jane Brooks's hand, and 'tis bloody.) The father and Gibſon immediately repaired to the conſtable, a diſcreet perſon, and acquainted him with what had paſſed, deſired him to go with him to Jane Brooks's houſe, which he did. They found her ſitting in her room on a ſtool with one hand over the other. The conſtable aſk'd her how ſhe did? She anſwered, not well. He aſk'd again why ſhe ſat with one hand over the other? ſhe replied, ſhe was wont to do ſo. He inquired if any thing were amiſs with her hand? Her anſwer was, it was well enough. The conſtable deſired he might ſee the hand that was under, which ſhe being unwilling to ſhew him, he drew it out and found it bloody according to what the boy had ſaid. Being aſk'd how it came ſo, ſhe ſaid 'twas ſcratched with a great pin.

On the eighth of December, 1657, the boy,

boy, Jane Brooks, and Alice Coward, appered at Caſtle-Cary before the Juſtices, Mr. Hunt and Mr. Cary. The boy having began to give his teſtimony, upon the coming in of the two women, and their looking on him, was inſtantly taken ſpeechleſs; and ſo remained till the women were removed out of the room, and then in a ſhort time, upon examination, he gave a full relation of the before-mentioned particulars.

On the eleventh of January following, the boy was again examined by the ſame Juſtices at Shepton Mallet, and upon the ſight of Jane Brooks was again taken ſpeechleſs, but was not ſo afterwards when Alice Coward came into the room to him.

On the next appearance at Shepton, which was on the ſeventeeth of February, there were preſent many gentlemen, miniſters and others. The boy fell in his fits upon the ſight of Jane Brooks, and lay in a man's arms like a dead perſon; the woman was then willing to lay her hand upon him, which ſhe did, and he thereupon ſtarted and ſprang out in a very ſtrange and unuſal manner. One of the Juſtices, to prevent all poſſibility of legerdemain, cauſed Gibſon and the reſt to ſtand off from the boy, and then

that

that Juſtice himſelf held him; the youth being blind-folded, the Juſtice called as if Brooks ſhould touch him, but winked to others to do it, which two or three ſucceſſively did, but the boy appeared not concerned. The Juſtice then called on the father, to take him, but had privately before deſired one Mr. Geoffery Strode to bring Jane Brooks to touch him at ſuch a time as he ſhould call for his father, which was done, and the boy immediately ſprang out after a very odd and violent faſhion. He was after touched by ſeveral perſons and moved not, but Jane Brooks being again cauſed to put her hand upon him, he ſtarted and ſprang out twice or thrice as before. All this while he remained in his fit, and ſome time after; and being then laid on a bed in the ſame room, the people preſent could not for a long time bow either of his arms or legs.

Between the before-mentioned 15th November and the 11th of January the two women appeared often to the boy, their hands cold, their eyes ſtaring, and their lips and cheeks looking pale. In this manner, on a Thurſday about noon, the boy being newly laid into his bed, Jane Brooks and Alice Coward appeared to him, and told him that what they had begun they could

could not perform. But if he would ſay no more of it, they would give him money, and ſo put two-pence into his pocket. After which they took him out of his bed, laid him on the ground and vaniſhed, and the boy was found by thoſe that came next into the room lying on the flour as if he had been dead. The two-pence was ſeen by many, and when it was put into the fire and hot, the boy would fall ill; but as ſoon as it was taken out and cold, he would be again as well as before. This was ſeen and obſerved by a miniſter, a diſcreet perſon, when the boy was in one room, and the two-pence (without his knowledge) put into the fire in another, and this was divers times tried, in the preſence of ſeveral perſons.

Between the 8th of December and the 17th of February, in the year mentioned, divers perſons at ſundry times, heard in the boy a noiſe like the croaking of a toad, and a voice within him ſaying, Jane Brooks, Alice Coward, twelve times in near a quarter of an hour. At the ſame time ſome held a candle before the boy's face, and earneſtly looked on him, but could not perceive the leaſt motion of his tongue, teeth, or lips, while the voice was heard.

On

On the 25th of February, between two and three in the afternoon, the boy being at the houſe of Richard Iſles in Shepton Mallet, went out of the room into the garden, Iſle's wife following him, and was within two yards when ſhe ſaw him riſe up from the ground before her, and ſo mounted higher and higher, till he paſſing in the air over the garden wall, and was carried ſo above ground more than 33 yards, falling at laſt at one Jordan's door at Shepton, where he was found as dead for a time; but coming to himſelf, told Jordan, that Jane Brooks had taken him up by the arm out of Iſle's garden, and carried him in the air, as is related.

The boy, at ſeveral other times, was gone on a ſudden, and upon ſearch after him, found in another room as dead, and at ſometimes ſtrangely hanging above the ground; his hands being flat againſt a great beam in the top of the room, and all his body two or three feet from the ground. There he hath hung a quarter of an hour together, and being afterwards come to himſelf, he told thoſe that found him, that Jane Brooks had carried him to that place and held him there. Nine people at the time ſaw the boy ſo ſtrangely hanging by the beam.

From

From the 15th of November to the 10th of March following, he was by reaſon of his fits, much waſted in body, and unſpirited, but after that time, being the day the two women were ſent to gaol, he had no more of thoſe fits.

Jane Brooks was condemned and executed at Charde aſſizes, March 25, 1658.

ON PERSPECTIVE.

Make choice of a room that hath a north eaſt, or weſt light, (a north is preferable) and let it be made ſo dark, that no light can enter, but at the hole where your glaſs is placed, (it muſt be a convex glaſs, about an inch in diameter) then make a hole through the ſhutter to fit the glaſs, and throw up the ſaſh, if there be any; then, at the diſtance your glaſs draws, hang up a white ſheet; then will be repreſented on the ſheet all that is about the glaſs, and oppoſite to it, with ſuch exquiſite exactneſs, as far ſurpaſſes the ſkill of any painter; for if the ſun ſhines, you will have all objects in the natural paint; but be ſure it does not ſhine near the hole, for then all things will appear confuſed.

Note. All things will appear inverted on the ſheet, to prevent which, provide yourſelf a mirror, and hold it near, or under the chin, when all things will appear in an erect poſition

Dreams and their Interpretations; the Belief in Dreams eſtabliſhed from Holy Writ, &c.

From the earlieſt accounts of paſt ages, mention is made of dreams, and they where looked upon as divine informations, ſigns, and warnings, not a few of which are mentioned in holy writ.

The inſpired writers have thought proper to diſplay their diſcernment by various ways; the dream of that heathen tyrant Nebuchadnezzar was interpreted by Daniel, and according to that interpretation was fulfilled.

The dream of Pharaoh was not leſs remarkable, and the interpretation of Joſeph was likewiſe accompliſhed.

Beſides, there are many other inſtances in ancient record, which plainly evince, that dreams convey a kind of fore-knowledge of what will come to paſs ſome time or other; and as there is hardly a perſon but feels, at ſome period, this phantaſy of the night, a collection of interpretations may not be diſagreeable.

We ſhall introduce our obſervations on this ſubject with two very ſingular circumſtances; the firſt of which is as

follows: A labouring man in the country dreamed, that if he came to London, and ſat upon a particular part of London-Bridge, he ſhould hear of ſomething which would entirely baniſh his poverty, and fix him above labour and want for the remainder of his life; this dream was repeated for ſeveral ſucceſſive nights, which made ſo ſtrong an impreſſion on his mind, that he determined to go directly to London, and take his ſtation on the bridge, as he was directed in his viſion.

This he actually did, and ſat from morning till night, for ſeveral days together. At length, a perſon taking notice of him, as he paſſed along, took the liberty to ſeat himſelf by his ſide, and aſk the reaſon of his continually keeping that ſtation, when the countryman told him his dream; "A parcel of nonſenſe," replied the man: "why I dreamed laſt night, that cloſe to a great tree in a field, in ſuch a part of the country, there was a great deal of money buried; but I ſhould be a very great fool was I to go above an hundred miles on account of ſuch a dream."

"True," ſaid the countryman, "and I think I will wait no longer."

From what the gentleman ſaid, and the

the deſcription he gave of the place, the countryman was convinced it was cloſe to his own cottage; and on his return, digging near to the ſuppoſed tree, abſolutely diſcovered a vaſt treaſure; which made him and his family happy during the remainder of their lives.

The other circumſtance is, that two men travelling together, were overtaken by a terrible ſtorm of thunder and lightning, with violent rain, ſo that they thought it beſt to take ſhelter at a public houſe, and go no farther that night; having ſupped, and retired to bed, no ſooner was one of them aſleep, than he dreamed his houſe was on fire, and his wife and family in great danger; troubled at which, he communicated it to his companion, who bade him not mind it, but try to ſleep again; which he did, and had the ſame dream again; and ſo a third time, when he determined to get up and go home with all ſpead, which he did with his companion; when coming to the houſe, he found the door open, and on entering, two villains were forcing into his wife's chamber, with a dark lanthorn, and a piſtol, which they by good fortune ſecured; ſo that by this dream he ſaved his property, and very

likely the life of his wife; wherefore dreams are not to be disregarded.

If a young woman dreams she is walking in pleasant groves, or gardens, she may be certain of marrying the man she loves; but if she dreams the trees and flowers are covered with snow, she will be crossed in love.

If a young man or woman dream of bad fruit, it is a sign their sweet-hearts are false hearted.

To dream of running streams of water, denotes you will shed many tears.

For a maid to dream a young man gives her a glass of clear water to drink, shews she will have an offer of being well married; and is the same, if a young man dreams the like.

To dream you see clear water running by your bed-side, denotes you will gain some benefit from a relation or friend.

To dream a raven lights upon your head, is a sign of death to the dreamer.

To dream you hear a magpye chatter, denotes quarrels and debates.

To dream of the wind blowing, and shifting about, shews you will often change your mind.

To dream of sailing in a boat, on a clear river, is a sign of love.

For

For a man to dream he falls into the water of ſome great torrent, is a ſign he will fall in love with a married woman, which will occaſion him much uneaſineſs.

For a maid to dream a young man puts a gold ring on her finger, is a ſure ſign of marriage; and the ſame if he ties on her garter.

To dream the air is ſerene, and ſky blue, but afterwards to be overclouded, and the winds boiſterous, denotes you will be happy when you are firſt married; but after, through poverty and quarrelling, you will lead a very unhappy life.

To dream you ſee an eagle take its flight, it is a ſign of proſperity and advancement.

To dream you are in the preſence of a lion, is a ſign of honour; and if it fawns upon you, it betokens you will be in favour with ſome great perſonage.

To dream you ſee a lamb killed, is a ſign of grief.

To dream you ſee a couple of milk white doves, or pigeons, come to your chamber window, is a ſign of ſpeedy marriage.

To dream you ſee a bear ſignifies a powerful and dangerous enemy.

To dream of an ape or monkey, ſhews

you will receive ſome injury from a cunning miſchievous perſon.

If you dream you are writing a letter, and that you write a very fine hand, is not good; but if you dream you blot, or tear your paper, you will have ſucceſs.

If a married woman dreams ſhe heard the cuckoo ſing, it ſignifies ſome man will endeavour to ſeduce her from her huſband.

To dream you ſee your face in a glaſs, betokens love.

For a perſon to dream they ſee their own back, denotes poverty.

If you dream your ſhoes and ſtockings are worn out, and your feet are dirty, it is a ſign of ſickneſs.

If one dreams of ſeeing a great deal of milk, it ſheweth plenty, as it does likewiſe to dream of corn.

If a young man dreams he rides on a white horſe, (which is his own) he will very ſoon be married to a beautiful young lady, and if a young woman dreams it, ſhe will ſpeedily have a handſome rich huſband.

To dream you have white gloves on your hands, denotes much honour.

To dream it rains, denotes getting of riches.

If any one dreams they are clothed in rich

rich ſilks and lace, it betokens advancement.

To dream you pick your ears, is a ſign you will hear ſome news.

To dream you ſee a hen and chickens, is a ſign you will have many children, and have a deal of care upon you to bring them up.

If any one dreams they have got a hamper of eggs, it ſignifies profit and gain; but if they are broken, it is a ſign of loſs in trade.

To dream your teeth drop out, ſheweth the death of relations; and if you dream one of your teeth is longer and more troubleſome than the reſt, it denotes ſtrife and contention among your neareſt akin.

If a man dreams he has loſt his left eye, he will loſe his wife; and if the woman dreams ſhe his loſt her right eye, ſhe will loſe her huſband.

If a perſon dreams their mouth is grown wider and bigger than common, it is a ſure ſign they will grow rich, and keep a great houſe.

To dream a lighted candle ſtands in your chamber, or a clear fire is burning, is a ſign of great love and deſire; and if you dream you ſee any part of the houſe

on fire, with a great ſmoke and crackling, it denotes anger, or haſty news.

For one to dream they are dead and buried, denotes great riches, and the more earth was thrown on you, the more money you will get.

To dream a bird flies into your hands, is a ſign of a preſent.

If any one dreams of finding gold, they may be ſure of meeting with a diſappointment.

To dream a dog follows you, betokens a true friend.

To dream you run, ſignifies diſgrace; and if a ſick perſon dreams he runs, it is a ſign of death.

To dream your ſweetheart ſhews you fine pictures, ſhews he is deceitful.

To dream you drink hot liquor with any one, ſignifies wrangling.

To dream you are drunk, denotes ſickneſs.

To dream you have a fine freſh colour, is a ſign of health and contentment; and to dream you are pale and thin, denotes grief and affliction.

To dream your toes and fingers are ſtrong, betokens many friends to help you.

If you dream the ſun is eclipſed, you will fall from high fortune.

To dream you ſee the moon at the full, ſhews you will have a handſome daughter.

If any one dreams he goes a fiſhing, it is a ſign of undergoing much labour and toil in his buſineſs; but to dream one makes you a preſent of fiſh, is very good.

If a man dreams of finding a parcel of nuts, he will by ſome means or other, get a great deal of money.

If a married woman dreams of gathering a great quantity of nuts, it is a ſign that ſhe either is, or ſoon will be pregnant. If ſhe dreams of gathering fruit, which is ready to drop from its ripeneſs, it denotes that her delivery is near at hand.

If either man or woman dreams that a child or children are by a river ſide, and narrowly eſcape falling in, it is a ſign they will be violently afflicted with ſome illneſs; but if they dream the child or children abſolutely ſlipped in, and were irrecoverably loſt, it is a certain ſign of death.

To dream you hear the ringing of bells, denotes joy.

To dream of muſic and ſinging ſignifies grief, eſpecially if you dream you ſing well.

To dream you hear drums beat, is a ſign you will be alarmed at ſomething.

To dream you ſee people cooking, and preparing for a feaſt, is a ſign there is a match making up for you by your friends.

To dream of a heated oven, or of hot bread, denotes you will change your place.

To dream of ſhaking hands with any one, is a ſign of friendſhip.

If any one dreams he talks with an enemy, he muſt take care of him.

For one woman to dream ſhe ſalutes another, is a ſign of deceit.

If one dreams of eating ripe oranges, it is a ſign of wounds and bruiſes.

To dream of eating ripe cherries, ſhews the party is in love, and is beloved again.

To dream of ſeeing a rainbow, ſignifies your love will change.

If a young woman dreams of ſeeing faded roſes, ſhe ſtands a chance to die an old maid.

To dream of gathering flowers, denotes a ſhort lived happineſs.

To hear birds ſing, denotes pleaſure.

To taſte ſweet things, ſignifies flattery.

To dream of a great ſtorm of hail, ſignifies hindrance and obſtruction in your affairs.

To dream you ſee a horſe or hare run ſwift, denotes expedition in buſineſs.

If a woman dreams ſhe ſees a naked man, it ſhews great dread and fear.

To dream of being ſtung by a waſp, ſignifies ſome ſpiteful perſon will injure your character.

To dream of a ſwallow, or any brird of paſſage, ſignifies voyages by ſea.

To dream you hear a nightingale ſing, foretels melancholy.

Strange Tricks performed by Electricity.

Among the wonderful diſcoveries of human nature, there is hardly any that rank higher than electricity.

This phenomenon, like many others, was found out merely by accident; yet has proved not only a ſource for various experiments, but likewiſe extremely beneficial to mankind.

The great Dr. Franklin has improved more in this branch of knowledge than any other perſon; he even contrived to bring lightning from the clouds by

means of conductors; these conductors are of great service, when fixed to churches, and other public edifices, to preserve them from the dreadful effects of the rapidness of elemental fire.

When electricity is made use of physically, it is of great utility, and has been known to relieve, and sometimes entirely cure, various disorders; it is very serviceable in the rheumatism, and other chronic disorders.

One circumstance I shall mention, which I received from a gentleman who has been dead some years, but whose character as an artist, and an ingenious person, will be a long time remembered; I mean Mr. Benjamin Rackstrow, of Fleet-street.

He told me, that having some company one day to see his museum, and his electrical experiments, they were rather fearful of undergoing the shock; when a person who was much given to inebriety, being in the room, and rather intoxicated, voluntarily offered to let the experiment be tried on him. This was agreed to, upon which he received it pretty smartly three or four times, and thought no more about it at that time. A few days afterwards, he had occasion to go to Chichester, in Sussex, and being rather low

low in circumſtances, was obliged to walk.

This man had been afflicted for many years with a rupture, which was extremely troubleſome, but on his journey he had not the leaſt ſymptoms of it; on which he wrote a letter to Mr Rackſtrow, informing him of this agreeable circumſtance, and imputing it entirely to his receiving the ſhocks from his electrical apparatus; the man lived to confirm this by word of mouth; and what is really extraordinary the rupture never returned, which is ſufficient to eſtabliſh its phyſical conſequence. It is of farther ſervice in palſies, and contractions; and is performed by ſparks, drawn by friction from the machine.

Its real uſe being thus eſtabliſhed, we may now, without offending, be a little merry with other circumſtances, which have, and may happen again, by means of electricity.

Some ladies and gentlemen coming to Mr. Rackſtrow's, brought with them a *negro* ſervant, who had not been long in England. After they had ſeen his natural and artificial curioſities, they deſired to ſee ſome of his electrical experiments, and gave him a hint to play a trick or two upon poor Mungo. Mungo was not a lit-

a little ſurpriſed at the ſhocks he received, but could not gueſs from whence they came; but when the room was darkened, and fire was made to come out of his fingers ends, he roared out like a mad bull, crying, the devil! the devil! and in endeavouring to get out of the room, overſet the ſkeleton of a Rhinoceros, run his head againſt a caſe full of butterflies, and broke all to pieces a fine buſt of the Marquis of Granby; and having once more gained day-light, made a ſudden ſpring into the ſtreet, and run immediately home, to the no ſmall diverſion of his maſter and family.

Mrs. Bulky being troubled with a tympany, was recommended to be electrified. She accordingly went to a profeſſor in that way, who aſked her if ſhe could bear a pretty hard ſhock? O yes, Sir, ſaid ſhe, as hard as you pleaſe, and as often as you pleaſe, I am very fond of being *ſhocked*; the man, by this, ſuppoſed ſhe had before undergone the operation, and was not ſparing to give her, what ſhe ſeemed ſo well to underſtand; but alas! he wound up his inſtrument too high; ſo that he not only overſet his patient, but actually conveyed her into a cellar, where they ſold ox-cheek, and peas-ſoup; down went the ſteaming pan full

full of ſavory broth, and off flew her monument of a cap into the other boiling cauldron.

The cook reddened like a heated poker, the cuſtomers roſe from their ſeats, and confuſſion took place in this ſubterraneous abode.

All culinary buſineſs was at an end for the preſent; the electrical doctor came running to the aſſiſtance of his patient; but as ſoon as the cauſe of the diſaſter was explained, the occupier of the place declared the damages ſhould be made good; her pan of leg of beef was entirely loſt: her peas-ſoup ſpoiled by the powder and pomatum of the lady's headdreſs; the doctor was the cauſe of all, and he ſhould pay for all; but he declared he would ſooner than pay a farthing, electriſy the houſe till it fell about their ears.

At laſt the lady, however, having adjuſted herſelf in the beſt manner ſhe could, gave the good woman a crown, and ſo compromiſed the matter; however, it cured her of her tympany, for ſhe never went to the doctor afterwards.

Many are the ticks played by means of an electrifying machine; a perſon in the city had one in his ſhop, which was not ſeen by the paſſers by; he hung at the

the door an old ſteelyard, which, from its make, ſeemed to be very ancient; this attracted the notice of many, who no ſooner went to examine it, than they received the ſhock; thoſe who knew what it was only ſmiled, and went on; others ſtared and could not gueſs from whence it came.

A drunken porter being called one day, and aſked what he would have to carry the ſteelyard to a certain place, went to examine it, but he no ſooner touched it than he felt a blow; and turning round, with an oath, declared if he knew who it was, he would pay them well for their impudence. He then returned to ſpeak about his job, and received another ſhock, and another after that, till, irritated by the ſuppoſed aſſaults, given by he could not tell who, he ſtriped in buff to fight all that came in his way, till he got a mob of boys and dogs at his heels, and was glad to get away at any rate.

Such tricks are not recommended as proper to be practiſed, for they are really dangerous; a ſtrange perſon might on finding the truth, break the windows, or keep it in his mind, and do the electrifying gentleman an injury, which might make him repent of his experiments.

Small electrical machines are often introduced

troduced in company, and create not only mirth, but produce real rational amuſement; ſuch can never be diſagreeable, but muſt give ſatisfaction to all who have any idea of philoſophical knowledge, and wiſh to improve their minds by mathematical experiments; to all ſuch we may ſafely recommend the electrical apparatus, which will be both uſeful and profitable.

How to terrify ſuch as are entirely unacquainted with the Nature of Phoſphorus.

Phoſphorus is a chemical preparation from human excrement; and is, in fact, a perpetual fire; its uſes are many, and have been explained by moſt of the greateſt philoſophers; it muſt be continually kept in water, or it will conſume itſelf; it is a very dear commodity, and therefore few can afford to play tricks with it, yet they are to be done in a very terrifying manner.

If you would frighten a perſon who is ignorant of the means you make uſe of, take phoſphorus and write upon a wall or ſome place you know the party will paſs in the dark; the words may be juſt what

what you pleaſe, ſo that they be applicable to the perſon you intend to frighten: you may likewiſe draw ſtrange pictures of dragons, or devils, with words coming out of their mouths with phoſphorus, which, in the dark will appear all on fire, have a moſt frightful appearance, and ſtrike wonder in the beholders. This kind of diverſion ſhould, however, be cautiouſly practiſed, as weak minds may be terrified into fits, or perhaps be deprived of their ſenſes for ever, as thinking it to be the work of ſome diabolical agent. Here is one inſtance preſerved, in which this experiment proved of real benefit. A very profane wretch, ſeeing ſomething of the kind, reflecting on his wickedneſs, and not knowing how it was done, became very good, left off his former vicious courſe of life, and performed the duties of a worthy member of ſociety. So far the trick was to be applauded, but the ſucceſs of it could not be known till it was tried.

Phoſphorus, though dangerous in unſkilful hands, may be converted to various uſeful purpoſes; it may ſerve in the night, to procure, on any emergency, a light, much ſooner than with flint and ſteel, as it will ſet fire to a match immediately. Theſe and many other uſes are

what

what render it valuable, notwithſtanding, as a curioſity, it has hardly its equal.

How to light a Candle by a Glaſs of cold Water, or any other Liquor, without the help of Fire.

You muſt take a little piece of phoſphorus, about the bigneſs of a pin's head, and with a piece of tallow ſtick it on the edge of a drinking glaſs, and then take the lighted candle and blow it out, and apply it to the glaſs, and it will immediately light. This is the preparation Cromwell uſed to fire on his cannon withal, very amazing to behold: you may write with it on paper ſome horrible word or other, and it will appear dreadful and frightful to the beholders: alſo you may take a piece as big as a pin's head, and rub it on a piece of paper, and it will be ſoon all on a flame.

To make a Room ſeem all on Fire, mighty dreadful to behold.

Take ſal armoniac half an ounce, camphire one ounce, aquæ vitæ two ounces, put them into an earthen pot, in the

the faſhion of a chamber pot, but narrow ſomething upon the top; then ſet fire to it, and the room will ſeem to them that are in it to be all on fire; nay, themſelves will flap their hair and clothes, thinking they are all on fire, when there is nobody hurt unleſs it be with fright. Have a care of ſhewing a woman with child in the room, for you yourſelf would be frighted if you did not know the trick.

How to burn a Thread, and to make it whole again with Aſhes..

It is not one of the worſt tricks to burn a thread handſomely, and make it whole again; the manner whereof is this: take two threads or ſmall laces, of one foot in length a-piece, roll up one of them round, which will be then about the bigneſs of a pea, put the ſame between your left fore finger and your thumb, then take the other thread, and hold it forth at length betwixt your fore finger and thumb of each hand, holding all your fingers daintily, as young gentlewomen are taught to hold up a morſel of meat; then let one cut aſunder the ſame thread in the middle; when that is done, put the tops of your two thumbs together, and

and ſo ſhall you with leſs ſuſpicion receive the piece of thread which you hold in your right hand, into your left, without opening of your left finger, and thumb; then holding theſe two pieces as you did before it was cut, let theſe two be cut alſo aſunder in the midſt, and they conveyed again as before, until they be very ſhort, and then roll all thoſe ends together, and keep that ball of thread before the other in the left hand, and with a knife thruſt the ſame into a candle, where you may hold it until the ſaid ball of thread be burnt to aſhes; then pull back the knife with your right-hand, and leave the aſhes with the other ball, betwixt your fore-finger and thumb of your left hand, and with the two thumbs and two fore-fingers together take pains to rub the aſhes till your thread be renewed, and draw out that thread at length, which you lay all this wile betwixt your fore-finger and thumb. This is not inferior to any juggler's trick, if it be well handled; for if you are ſo perfect in *legerdemain*, as to beſtow the ſame ball of thread, and to change it from place to place, betwixt your other fingers, as may be eaſily done, then will it ſeem very ſtrange.

Having gone through moſt of ſuch

things which are eſteemed rare, in chemiſtry, geography, anatomy, and the mathematicks, we ſhall now proceed to other matters, which though perhaps not ſo curious, we flatter ourſelves will be thought no leſs entertaining to the reader.

The Art of Fortune-telling by Cards.

Take a pack of cards, and making yourſelf which queen you pleaſe, lay them out upon a table, nine of a row, and wherever you find yourſelf placed, count nine cards every way, making yourſelf one, and then you will ſee what card you tell to, and whatever that is will happen to you. If the two red tens are by you, it is a ſign of marriage, the ace of diamonds is a ring; the ace of hearts is your houſe, the ace of clubs is a letter, the ace of ſpades is death, ſpite or quarrelling (for that is the worſt card in the pack;) the ten of diamonds is a journey, the three of hearts is a kiſs, the three of ſpades is a tear, the ten of ſpades is ſickneſs, the nine of ſpades a diſappointment; the nine of clubs a merry-making; the nine of hearts feaſting; the ten of clubs going by water; the ten of hearts ſome

place of amuſement, the five of hearts a preſent, the five of clubs a bundle, the ſix of ſpades a child, the ſeven of ſpades a removal, the three of clubs fighting; the eights of clubs confuſion; the eight of ſpades a roadway; the four of clubs a ſtrange bed; the nine of diamonds buſineſs; the five of diamonds a ſettlement; the five of ſpades a ſurpriſe; the two red eights new clothes; the three of diamonds ſpeaking with a friend; the four of ſpades a ſick bed; the ſeven of clubs a priſon; the two of ſpades a falſe friend; the four of hearts a marriage bed; when ſeveral diamonds come together it is a ſign of money; ſeveral hearts love; ſeveral clubs drink; and ſeveral ſpades vexation.

If a married woman lays the cards, ſhe muſt make her huſband the king of the ſame ſuit ſhe is queen of; but if a ſingle woman tries it, ſhe may make her ſweetheart what king ſhe likes; the knaves of the ſame ſuit are the men's thoughts: ſo that you may know what they are thinking of, by telling nine cards from where they are placed, making them one; and if any one chuſes to try if ſhe ſhall have her wiſh, let her ſhuffle the cards well (as ſhe muſt likewiſe when ſhe tells her fortune) wiſhing all the time for

ſome

ſome one thing: ſhe muſt then cut them once, and minding what card ſhe cuts, ſhuffle them again, and then deal them out into the parcels, which done, look over every parcel, and if the card you cut comes next yourſelf, or next the ace of hearts, you will have your wiſh; but if the nine of ſpades is next, you will not, for that is a diſappointment; however, you may try it three times.

This method of telling fortunes is innocent, and much better than for a young woman to tell her ſecrets to a fortune-teller, who can inform her no better, if ſhe pays a ſhilling for the intelligence.

A curious Method of Reſtoring a Fly to Life, in two Minutes, that has been drowned twenty-four Hours.

This wonderful experiment is produced by a very ſimple cauſe. Take a fly, put it in a pan or cup full of water; cover it ſo as to deprive the fly of air; when you perceive it to be quite motionleſs, take it out and put it on a place expoſed to the ſun, and cover it with ſalt; in two minutes it will revive and fly away.

To render hedious the Faces of all the Company.

Diſſolve ſome ſalt and ſaffron in ſome ſpritis of wine; dip a little tow in it and ſet fire to it. At this light, thoſe who are of a fair complexion will appear green, and the red of the lips and cheeks turn to a deep olive colour.

To take a Bird out of a Cage, and make it appear as dead, or to roll it about as you pleaſe.

Thoſe of moderate underſtandings are eaſier to be deceived, as the great Lord Cheſterfield obſerves in his letters to his ſon, "mankind are eaſier deceived than undeceived:" and if it was not ſo, half the jugglers would want employment, and the multitude would not croud ſo often to ſee their wonders! wonders! and wonders! as performed, and puffed away by that great philoſopher Katterfelto, and his black cat, and others of the ſame claſs; but as thoſe who have money are willing to accommodate thoſe who have none, others have

art enough to conjure it out of their pockets; the world will be always ſupplied with ſome of both ſorts, and it is no matter how, ſo that money does but circulate; and tricks of the moſt ſimple kind will often attract the notice of the crowd, who throw away their ſix-pences, ſhillings, and half-crowns, for the benefit of thoſe who want them.

This trick is one of that ſort which wants no great ſkill in performing, yet has gained no little ſhare of applauſe, both in town and country.

Take any bird out of a cage, and lay it on the table, then take a ſmall feather, and wave over its eyes, and it will immediately appear as dead, but by taking the feather away it will revive again; let it lay hold of the ſtem part of the feather with its feet, and it will twiſt and turn about like a parrot; you may likewiſe roll it about on the table juſt as you pleaſe: that the feather is the cauſe of all this ſtrange appearance is without doubt, but why it ſhould be ſo is a ſecret which will not be diſcovered till we can underſtand the bird language, which has been loſt ever ſince Adam was expelled the garden of Eden. To ſay more on theſe ſubjects would be unneceſſary, and only tire the reader's patience; theſe ſpecimens

cimens will be ſufficient to inſtruct him, that all performances of this kind are inventions carried on by ſlight and deception; that the exhibiters are no more conjurers than other folks, only through practice; and that any one might ſoon be capable of the ſame, did they beſtow their time and attention on things of ſo trifling a nature.

How, on delivering a Ring to a Number of Perſons, to find which Perſon has got it, which Hand it is on, which Finger, and which Joint.

Though witchcraft, witches, and wizards, and thoſe tawny ſibyls, or gipſey gangs, are leſs numerous than in former days, and almoſt totally exploded by a late act of parliament; yet there are a great many of the ſenſible part of the world, that firmly hold the doctrine of magic, and think that an old woman, with a leather-looking aſpect, thin jaws, and a quantity of hair upon her chin, can mount a broomſtick, and fly to ſweep the cobwebs off the moon; or, that others can creep in at a key-hole, and carry a cheſt of drawers out the ſame way, or transform themſelves into a black

cat, a crooked horned cow, a dark lanthorn, or a crooked ſix-pence. To ſuch as will not be undeceived by the light of reaſon, I ſhall give full liberty to remain in the darkneſs of ignorance. The following contrivance will, by many, be looked on, no doubt, as not to be done, but by the aſſiſtance of magic art; that is, to give a ring among a number of people, without knowing to which, and yet to tell which perſon has got the ring, on which hand, finger, and joint. The company muſt ſit down on a row, then beginning at one end of the company, call one of them the firſt, another the ſecond, and next the third, and ſo on; alſo call the right hand the firſt, the left hand the ſecond, and ſo fourth, and ſo of the joints of each finger; then deliver the ring, and leave them to conceal it, among themſelves.

Then, to find which has the ring, upon which hand, which finger, and which joint, bid them double the firſt man's number, and add to it five, and multiply the ſum by five, and to the product add ten; and the next man's number thought upon; then let them multiply the ſum by ten, and add to the product the next man's number, and ſo proceed; then inquire the laſt ſum, and if there were but

two

two numbers thought upon, ſubſtract three hundred and fifty therefrom; if four, three thouſand five hundred, &c. for the numbers repreſenting the perſon, the hand, the finger, and the joint, may be taken for four numbers thought upon.

EXAMPLE.

Suppoſe the fourth perſon has the ring on his left hand, and on the third joint of that finger, bid them double the number of the perſon, it makes 8

To which add five, it makes 13

This multiply by five, makes 65

To which add ten, and it makes 75

And two added for the left hand 77

Which multiplied by ten, makes 770

To which adding five, for the fingers, makes 775

This multiplied by ten, makes 7750

To which three added for the joints, makes 7753

To which cauſe them to add fourteen (or any number you pleaſe to conceal it) makes 7767

From which ſubſtract 3514

And there remains 4253

Which ſhews that the fourth perſon has the ring upon the ſecond hand, the fourth finger, and the third joint.

Note, that 3500 is the number always

to be ſubſtracted, only you muſt add thereto, as much as you cauſe to be added to the laſt ſum, which were fourteen.

Thus this mighty magical affair is determined by figures and calculation; yet it muſt be owned, that ſuch ſubjects are of uſe, to exerciſe the memory, and make you perfect in one of the moſt uſeful branches of knowledge, as it is of the moſt diſtinguiſhed ſervice in all profeſſions; the merchant, the tradeſman, and the mechanic.

How to rub out Twenty Chalks at five Times rubbing out, every Time an odd one.

Tricks of this kind are more generally the diverſion of low mechanics, who, have ſtudied what is trifling, more than what is uſeful, fancy themſelves conjurers, and not a little proud, often affront and inſult thoſe of ſuperior knowledge, always ready to lay wagers, when in their cups, offer five to one, ten to one, or any odds that come uppermoſt, that none can do the like but themſelves; yet ſometimes theſe cunning men find themſelves at a loſs, when they meet with a perſon who is equally knowing, who makes their pockets pay for their

their boaſting. From theſe ſort of wagers ariſe quarrels; for if one is not equal to another in point of calculation, he thinks he may be in point of manhood; a challenge is given and accepted; and the combatants, fierce as bull-dogs, begin throwing their athletic arms at each other, the ſtones are rammed deeper with their falls, the noiſy attendants make confuſion aſhamed with their vociferous clamouring. "Well ſtruck Dick, that was a nice one Tom, at him again, under his ribs, darken his day-lights, mind your points, find out his bread-baſket, tip him Slack's favourite, give him a croſs-buttock, and come Ben Boſle over his jaw-bone. Huzza! huzza! huzza!" then the valiant heroes, encouraged by their friends, the rabble, bruiſe one another's fleſh, and at laſt, the victor, perhaps, gains for his triumph, a black eye, bloody noſe, and diſlocated jaw; and all his comfort is, that his antagoniſt has the ſame ſort of honour doubled. After all this, a few tankards of porter make them friends; but their wives and families are the greateſt ſufferers, who are at home pining in rags and want, while their huſbands are loſing their time and abuſing themſelves.

The following trick is one of thoſe moſt in practice among them.

To do this trick you muſt make twenty chalks or long ſtrokes upon a board, as in the margin.

Then begin and count backwards as 20, 19, 18, 17, rub out theſe four, then proceed ſaying, 16, 15, 14, 13, rub out theſe four, and begin again, 12, 11, 10, 9, and rub out theſe, and proceed again, 8, 7, 6, 5, and rub out, theſe, and laſtly ſay, 4, 3, 2, 1; when theſe four are rubbed out, the whole twenty are rubbed out at five times, and every time an odd one, that is, the 17th, 13th, 9th, 5th and 1ſt.

1—
2—
3—
4—
5—
6—
7—
8—
9—
10—
11—
12—
13—
14—
15—
16—
17—
18—
19—
20—

This is a trick, which, if once ſeen, may be eaſily retained; and the only puzzle at firſt, is it not occurring immediately to the mind, to begin to rub them out backwards. It is as ſimple as any thing poſſibly can be, and might do very well when people are ſocial and good-humoured together; but when they are fluſhed with liquor, and fractious by nature, I adviſe all thoſe who

who love peace and quietneſs, not to be curious to know what they cannot directly comprehend, as one word brings on another, and the conſequences may be what is diſplayed in the preface to this trick.

A Perſon holding Gold in one Hand and Silver in the other, to find which the Gold is in, and which the Silver.

Tricks of this kind, though very ſimple, are really amuſing; they are pretty puzzlers to entertain the mind, and as ſuch may be recommended to young people who are inclined to be merry without deſign to offend.

That wit or ingenuity, which has malice or envy for its object, is a ſpurious offſpring, and not the genuine deſcendant of the ſportive god, Momus.

Bid him reckon four for the gold, and three for the ſilver, or any other number, ſo that one be odd, and the other even; then let him treble that which is in the right hand, and double that in the left hand, and let him add theſe two products together; then aſk him if it be even or odd; for if it be even, then

the gold will be in the right hand; but if odd, the gold is in the left hand;

Such tricks as theſe are harmleſs, and may be practiſed, to paſs away time on a tedious evening, without the parties being the leaſt culpable; for which reaſon it is recommended to the youthful and innocent, as a pleaſing recreation.

To find the Number of points caſt on Three Dice.

A quaker being aſked by the great F——e for the loan of a few thouſands, to prevent his bank from failing in ſuch a critical period, replied, with an archneſs peculiar to his brethren, "Friend, I have heard that many a man may be ruined by two dice, but I am determined that *Fourdice* ſhall never ruin me."

Dice are the more immediate companions of ſharpers and gamblers, who, from a long acquaintance with them, know to a certainty what points they can throw.

To find the number of points caſt on three dice; let any one caſt three dice; then bid him add together the points which are uppermoſt; then ſet one of the dice aſide, and to the former, add the

the points at the bottom of the other two dice; then bid him throw theſe two dice, and mark how many points appear at the top, which add to the former ſum, then let him ſet one of thoſe dice aſide, and mark the points which are under the other dice, and add it to the former ſum; laſtly, let him throw that other dice, and whatever appears on the top of it, add to the former ſum, and let the dice remain. This done, come to the table, and note what points appear upon the three dice, which add privately together, and add to it twenty-one, and you will find the ſum to be equal to the ſum which the parties privately had made of all the other operations.

Thus by calculations many things, almoſt incredible to think, may be done; yet ſuch alluring things are dice, as well as cards, that their nature and uſe are dangerous to explain to young minds; but as this may be of ſervice to thoſe who would be competent in all the branches of arithmetic, it can be of no hurt.

To find the points caſt upon two Dice.

As we have given one ſpecimen in regard to dice, another we preſume will

not be thought diſagreeable, eſpecially as the remarks made on the good and bad uſe of them may be a warning not to convert a ſimple paſtime into a vicious crime; for certain, it is more a crime than folly, for any perſon to ſtake his fortune, or eſtate, upon the chance of what may be uppermoſt on the face of two or three pieces of ſpotted ivory; but as admonition is vain to thoſe who will not hear, and of no uſe to thoſe who cannot underſtand, any thing further on that head would be uſeleſs; we ſhall therefore proceed to the ſecond ſubject.

To find the points caſt upon two dice, let any one caſt both the dice, and then mark how many points appear at the top, then let him take up one of them, (no matter which) and ſee what number is at the bottom, and add all together; then let him caſt the dice again, and add the points caſt to the former ſum; let the dice ſtand, bring ſeven with you, and then add the points which appear at the top of the dice, and you will find ſo many were caſt in the whole.

Simple as this appears to be, there are many not able to comprehend it; and, therefore, I adviſe them not to meddle with dice at all; as every one's head is not alike for arithmetical calculations; it

it requires a ſtrong memory; whereas, in works of fancy, the ideas are continually fluctuating, and as Mr Pope ſays,

" Where beams of warm imagination play,
" The memory's ſoft faculty melts away."

To make a Perſon tired, or ſweat, at carrying a ſmall Stick out of a Room.

Moſt amuſements become more agreeable as they appear more inſignificant at firſt, and become more laughable in the end; give a ſtick into the hands of any perſon, ſuppoſe not thicker than a pea in circumference, or three inches in length, and tell him you will lay any wager that he will not carry it out of the room a foot from the door without ſweating, being tired, or complaining that his back aches; this the perſon (not knowing your intention) no doubt will laugh at, and readily accept the bet; as ſoon as you have made the ſtake ſure, take a knife and cut off a little bit, ſo ſmall you can hardly ſee it, and bid him carry that firſt, and then give him another; and if he thinks proper to abide by the wager, you may, by this means, make him go ſome thouſands of times; but ſooner than proceed to the end

end of the experiment, it is a thouſand to one but he owns he has loſt; for it might be ſo managed, by the ſmallneſs of the pieces cut, the little ſtick might find him employment for a fortnight.

A Trick with a Cock.

Birds, and animals, it is very well known, are poſſeſſed of wonderful faculties; and may be taught to perform wonderful things; this is evident from recent circumſtances: Mr. Pinchbeck's learned dog and bird are ſufficient proofs to eſtabliſh this beyond all other arguments.

Among the many things practiſed on, and with the feathered race, this of the cock is not the leaſt particular.

Take a cock from rooſt at night, or off its walk by day, and bring him into a room full of company, keep both your hands cloſe to his wings, and hold them tight; put him on a table, and point his beak down as ſtraight as poſſible, and then let any one draw a line, with a piece of chalk, directly from its beak, and all the noiſe you can poſſibly make, with drums, trumpets, or even the crowing of other cocks, will not diſturb him from the ſeeming lethargy, which that poſition

you

you have laid him in, with the chalked line, has effected.

Strange as this is, yet the certainty of it is paſt a doubt, as many gentlemen, who have, ere this, ſported ſome hundreds on the royal turf, have aſſured us they have tried the experiment, and declare it to be a fact.

A droll trick played with a Fowl.

A perſon who was rather put to it for money, ſet his wits to work how to obtain a little of that neceſſary commodity; he canvaſſed over a number of things in his mind, and at laſt hit upon the following expedient.

He had got a young cock, which he had brought up to do almoſt whatever he pleaſed (that is, as far as the nature of the bird would allow;) it would lay down as dead, with its head tucked under its wing, and lie in that manner as long as he thought proper.

This cock he ſtripped all the feathers from, as they do geeſe in Lincolnſhire, and ſet the cryer to work, informing the gentlemen, ſtudents, &c. (for it was at Cambridge) that at ſuch an hour in the evening he would exhibit a roaſted fowl, which, as ſoon as attempted to be cut up, ſhould

ſhould riſe out of the diſh, and fly away with the fork ſtuck in it.

Half a crown was the price for ſeeing this great curioſity; and to make it appear as not a mere take in, no money was to be received till after the performance.

Bills in writing were likewiſe diſtributed, and not a few attended at the inn; the ſcholars laughed in their ſleeves; they had heard and ſeen the Jonas's, the Comas's, the Breſlaw's, and the Katerfelto's; but this trick promiſed to ſurpaſs them all.

In the mean time a fowl was laid down to the fire, and the cook brought into the confederacy; a large baſon of egg ſauce was made, and left to cool, the cloth was laid, and the gueſts deſired to walk in; the needy contriver of the ſcheme was as buſy as could be, entertaining the company with a multitude of extraordinary ſtories to divert their attention, while he carried on the deception: at laſt the fowl was done, ſeveral were preſent at its being taken off the ſpit, and then haſtened into the parlour; meantime another diſh was ready cloſe to the door, with the live fowl ſtripped of its feathers in it, and covered over with the cold egg ſauce.

As ſoon as this was ſet upon the table (for

(for the change was managed ſo cleanly, that no perſon perceived it) one of the ſtudents ſtuck in his fork, with a degree of vehemence, that made the fowl quit its ſupineneſs, run from the diſh, and fluttering its wings, beſpattered the company all over with egg ſauce; and actually made off with the fork, to the no ſmall ſurpriſe and mirth of the beholders.

The man having thus fulfilled his promiſe, began to collect the half crowns, which tumbled in pretty plentifully; the real roaſted fowl was ſerved in with other proviſions; and after ſupper, the evening was concluded with the utmoſt harmoney, and much to the ſatisfaction of the wag, who was the contriver, and who filled his pockets by the experiment.

To make an Egg ſtand an end on a Table or on a Looking-glaſs.

To divert with propriety is no eaſy taſk; it is not ſufficient that a perſon knows a trick, and can do it, but it requires a certain addreſs, an eaſy manner in the performing of it, which renders it doubly pleaſing.

To

To make an egg ſtand an end on any poliſhed ſurface ſeems very extraordinary, yet it is to be done, even on a *looking-glaſs*; now from the form of an *egg* nothing is more liable to roll, and nothing more ſo than on looking glaſs; to accompliſh this trick, let the performer take an egg in his hand, and while he keeps talking, and ſtaring in the face of his audience, give it two or three hearty ſhakes, which will break the yolk, which will ſink to one end, and conſequently make it more heavy, by which, when it is ſettled, you may make it, with a ſteady hand, ſtand upon the glaſs, which would be impoſſible while it continued in its priſtine ſtate.

To put a Candle under Water a light, without its going out.

As much has been ſaid about the *diving-bell*, this ſimple trick may ſerve, in ſome degree, to elucidate that contrivance: as it is certainly done on the ſame principle.

Take a glaſs, and faſtening a ſmall bit of wood acroſs the mouth, ſtick thereon a bit of candle lighted, and, with a ſteady hand, bring the glaſs to the ſurface of the

the water, then puſh it carefully down, and you may ſee the candle burn under the water, and may bring it up again alight; and in the ſame manner you may put a handkerchief rolled tight together, and it will not be wet.

The principal art in doing this trick, conſiſts in the nicety of bringing the mouth of the glaſs exactly even with the ſurface of the water; for if you put it the leaſt on one ſide, the wet will get in, and conſequently will put the candle out, or wet the hankerchief; ſo that a nice eye and ſteady hand are abſolutely neceſſary for this performance.

Various Performances and Deceptions with Cards.

Cards are capable of affording a deal of entertainment, beſides the different games which are played with them; and indeed it muſt be acknowledged, the tricks played with them are more innocent than any thing elſe they are uſed for.

How many lovely ladies loſe their complexions at the midnight card-table, which, from the eagerneſs of gaming, flurries the ſpirits, affects the paſſions, and often diſorders the whole frame, to

the

the great injury of health; for though people may be regardleſs of their wealth, and care not what they loſe, yet a certain ſolicitude prevails with every one who plays, and few there are who make it ſimply an amuſement; therefore cards are no further recommended than merely to create innocent mirth, which the following tricks will not a little accelerate.

For a Perſon to chuſe a Card, you not ſuppoſed to know what it is, and then for the Perſon to hold the cards between his Finger and Thumb, to ſtrike them all out of his Hand, except the very Card he had taken.

This is called the Nerve trick, and is thus performed; having previouſly looked at a card, bid the perſon draw one, taking care to ſhove that to him which you know; when he has looked at it, let him put it at the bottom; let him ſhuffle the cards, then you look at them again, and finding the card, place it at the bottom; then cut them in half; give the party that part which contains his choſen card at the bottom, to look between his finger and thumb juſt at the corner; bid him pinch them as tight as he can; then ſtriking

ſtriking them pretty ſharp, they will all fall to the ground except the bottom one, which is the card he had choſen.

This is a very curious trick, and if cleanly done, is really aſtoniſhing; but may be accounted for from the nature of the nerves, which are always more retentive when any thing is attempted to be taken either by force or ſurpriſe.

To tell what Card a Perſon thinks upon, though you are not in the Room, or which Card he has touched, or waved his Hand over.

To do this trick you muſt lay a wager that you will tell the card the perſon has touched, though you do not ſee it: let ſeveral cards be laid out on a table, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or any number, then turn your back, or leave the room while the perſon makes choice; on your return you muſt inquire what he will lay, having your eye upon the cards laid out: if he ſays he will lay ſix to one, or ten to one, you muſt take the higheſt number, as that will, in all probability, be the card he had fixed on. You muſt ſeem to pauſe about counting the cards as they lay, and chooſing the fartheſt off.

How

How to deliver out Four Aces, and convert them to Four Knaves:

This trick is one among the many which is effected by a quick ſlight; for if it is done in a bungling manner, it may eaſily be detected, and the pretender will be liable to contempt inſtead of applauſe.

To do this, make a pack of eight cards, viz. four aces and four knaves, and let them be laid in this order: an ace and a knave, and ſo alternately through all the eight cards; then ſhuffle them, ſo as always at the ſecond ſhuffling or at leaſt when you have done ſhuffling them, one of the aces may be the nethermoſt card; then uſe ſome words or device, and putting your hand with the cards to the edge of the table, let out privately a piece of the ſecond card, which is one of the knaves; then ſhewing to the ſtanders by the nether card, which is one of the aces; be ſure to cover the piece of the knave with your fingers; then draw out the ſame knave, laying it down on the table; then ſhuffle the cards as before, and you will have two aces at bottom; therefore take off the upper-

uppermoſt card, and thruſt it into the middle of the pack; do the ſame with the nethermoſt card, which is one of the aces, then you may ſhew another ace as before; and inſtead of that lay down another knave; proceed in the ſame method, till, inſtead of the four aces, you have laid down the four knaves.

The beholders, all the time thinking that there lay four aces on the table, are greatly deceived when the cards are turned up, and will wonder at the tranſformation.

To tell what Card a Perſon pitches on, without ſeeing the card till you find it in the Pack.

The many different tricks which may be done with cards muſt have been invented by various perſons, at different periods, as it cannot be ſuppoſed that any one perſon could be the inventor of all. This trick is done in the following manner: as you hold the cards in your hand, let any one take a card out of the pack, and look at it? then take the card from them with your eyes ſhut, and put it at the bottom of the pack; then ſhuffle the cards till you know it is come to the bot-

to

tom again; then putting the cards behind you, make as though you ſhuffled them behind you, but let your ſhuffling be only this; take off the uppermoſt card, and put it at the bottom, reckon that two: then take off another card, and reckon that three; then take off as many as you pleaſe from the top, and put them at the bottom, counting to yourſelf how many you take off: then bring the cards fourth, and hold them with their faces towards you; then take off one by one, privately counting the number, and ſmell to them, as though you found it out by your noſe, till you come to the right card; then produce it, ſaying, this is it; and they will wonder how you found it out.

A little practice will ſerve to perfect any perſon in this trick, and indeed moſt of them depend on practice, as well as all other manual operations.

LIVES OF EMINENT MAGICIANS, &c.

A MYSTERIOUS PHILOSOPHER.

ROBERT FLUDD, ſurnamed De Fluctibus, was a celebrated phyſician and Roſicrucion philoſopher. He was the ſecond ſon of Sir Thomas Fludd, treaſurer of war to Queen Elizabeth, and was born at Milgrate in Kent, in 1754. He received his education at St. John's College, Oxford: and after taking his degrees in arts, attached himſelf to phyſic, and ſpent about ſix years in his travels through the principal countries in Europe. He proceeded Doctor of Phiſic in 1605, and about the ſame time ſettled at London, and was made a Fellow of the College of Phyſicians. He was a very voluminous writer in his way, and of his ſect, almoſt the only

one who ever became eminent in this kingdom. He was, however, a man of great capacity and penetration, and the moſt learned mathematician of his age. His acuteneſs and extenſive genius, which, at firſt penetrated the profoundeſt ſecrets of nature, cauſed him to be deemed a magician in the age he lived in; but the more judicious part of mankind, who admired his ingenuity, gave him the appellation of the Seeker, and which he well deſerved, for his application and induſtry to the moſt abſtruſe parts of the occult ſciences, diving into the moſt myſterious obſcurities of the Roſicrucian philoſophy, and blending, in a moſt extraordinary manner, the ſacred myſteries of divinity with the abſtract nature of Alchymy and even chemiſtry, natural philoſophy and metaphyſics; ſo that Bacon rightly ſtiles him Philoſophica Miracula, for he carried his myſtical means even to the bed ſides of his patients, many of whom, and perſons of quality, had wonderful confidence in his ſkill, and accordingly we find him in great reputation for his medical capacity. The vulgar always admire what they do not underſtand, and with them, what Rocheſter ſays is very true, viz. " as

charms

charms are nonſenſe, nonſenſe has a charm." It certainly raiſed their ſpirits by inſpiring them with a greater confidence in his ſkill, and thereby greatly contributed to their cure. However, he was not ſo well received at home as abroad. The celebrated Gaſſendus, had a controverſy with him, which ſhews at leaſt he was not conſidered in his day as an inſignificant writer among the learned foreign world. He died in Coleman-Street, London, September 8, 1637. Wood has given an exact liſt of his works, which are moſtly written in Latin. In theſe are ſome very ſingular prints, which a late celebrated critic obſerved were not to be underſtood but by a ſecond ſighted adept. His Moſaic Philoſophy, which we have in England, is but a ſmall part of his works, and it appears, that from this part of his writings, the modern non deſcript ſcience of animal magnetiſm was revived after ſlumbering upwards of a century. It is ſaid he poſſeſſed all the MSS. of the famous Simon Forman the aſtrologer.

A SINGULAR ENGLISH METAPHYSICAL AND OCCULT GENIUS.

JOHN HUTCHINSON, an eminent Engliſh writer, and who may be conſidered as a founder of a ſect, as ſome divines of the church of England have eſpouſed his ſentiments with great warmth: He was born at Spennythorn in Yorkſhire, in the dear 1674. His father intending to qualify him for being a ſteward to ſome nobleman or gentleman, gave him what learning the place afforded; and while he was conſidering whither to ſend him, for his farther qualification, a gentleman came into that neighbourhood, and being deſirous of boarding in ſome reputable family, was recommended to Mr. Hutchinſon, the father, who finding that he was both a ſenſible and a learned man, communicated to him his intentions concerning his ſon; and the gentleman, who had taken a liking to the youth, agreed to inſtruct him in every branch of learning proper for the employment for which he was deſigned, on

on condition, that the father ſhould entertain him in his houſe while he ſhould think proper to ſtay in thoſe parts. The father cheerfully agreed to theſe terms, and his gueſt inſtructed his ſon in every branch of the mathematics, and at the ſame time furniſhed him with a competent knowledge of the celebrated writings of antiquity. But the gentleman ſo induſtriouſly concealed every circumſtance relating to himſelf, that not ſo much as is name was known. At nineteen years of age our author became ſteward to Mr. Bathurſt, of Skutterſkelf in Yorkſhire, from whoſe ſervice he afterwards removed into that of the Duke of Somerſet. About the year 1700 he came to London to manage a law-ſuit between the duke and another nobleman; and, while he was in town, contracted an acquaintance with Dr. Woodward, who was phyſician to the duke his maſter. Between the years 1702 and 1706, his buſineſs carried him into ſeveral parts of England and Wales; and as he travelled from place to place; he employed himſelf in collecting foſſils; and we are told that the noble collection of them which Dr. Woodward bequeathed to the univerſity of Cambridge, was made by him.

Mr. Hutchinſon is ſaid to have put his collections into Dr. Woodward's hands, with obſervations on them, which the doctor was to digeſt, and publiſh with farther obſervations of his own; but the doctor putting him off from time to time with excuſes, gave him unfavourable notions of his integrity; and he complains in one of his books, that he was bereſt, in a manner not to be mentioned, of thoſe obſervations, and thoſe collections, nay even of the credit of being the collector. He reſolved therefore to wait no longer, but to truſt to his own pen; and, in order to be more at leiſure to proſecute his ſtudies, quitted the ſervice of the duke of Somerſet, who being then maſter of the horſe to king George I. made him is riding purveyor, which is a kind of ſinecure, with a ſalary of 200l. per annum. He now gave himſelf up to a ſtudious and ſedentary life, and in the year 1724 publiſhed the firſt part of his Moſes's Principia, in which he explains all ſciences by the diſcoveries he pretends to make from the Hebrew text of the books of Moſes, and not only ridicules Dr. Woodward's Natural Hiſtory of the Earth, but Sir Iſaac Newton's Principia. From this time till his death

death, he continued publiſhing a volume every year, or every other year; which, with the manuſcrips he left behind him, were publiſhed in 1748, in twelve volumes, 8vo. On the Monday before his death, Dr. Mead urged him to be bled, ſaying pleaſantly, "I will ſoon ſend you to Moſes!" meaning to his ſtudies: but Mr. Hutchinſon taking it in the literal ſenſe, anſwered in a muttering tone, "I believe, doctor, you will," and was ſo diſpleaſed, that he diſmiſſed him for another phyſician. He died on the 28th of Auguſt, 1737, aged ſixty-three. His works abound with ill language, and diſcover a violent propenſity to perſecution and cruelty.

Thomas Topham, commonly called the Strong Man, was a very famous boxer, remarkable alſo for his dexterity and ſtrength. He was bred to no mechanical employment, but ſpent ſome years of his life as a ſailor before the maſt on board a man of war; and was not conſcious of his own ſuperior ſtrength, till one day getting drunk, and quarrelling with the cook, he pulled out the iron bars of the grate by laying hold of them

in

in the middle, and bending them violently forward, ſo as to force off the rivettings at each end. After this the ſhip's company was continually ſoliciting him to ſhew ſome feat of his ſtrength; and when they came to Portſmouth, the people that came with liquor in a bomb-boat, having heard of his fame, were very ſolicitous to ſee ſome of his performances, particularly an old Iriſh woman, who had handed him up ſome beer in a large ſilver tankard: when the tankard was empty, Topham held it over the ſide of the veſſel to be filled again, upon which the woman cried out, "Tommy! do, God love you, let's ſee what you can do!" "well, ſays Topham, take your tankard then;" and reaching it down, he preſſed it between his finger and thumb with ſuch force, that when the old woman received it, it was flat as a pancake. "Tuſh now, ſaid the old women, and by Jeſus, my dear, why could not you ſqueeze it without marring the ſhape!"

He frequently exhibited in public, and one day as he was performing ſome ſleights of hand in a large room at a public houſe near the city, an athelic hero, who chanced to be among the ſpectators, with a kind of ſullen

ſullen diſcontent, broke out in a ſtrain of eloquence peculiar to his claſs: "What ſignifies this fellow's playing his legerdemain tricks! its all artifice; there's many a better man than he is, that walks the ſtreets ever hour in the day. I'll ſhew you preſently what he's made of!"—Upon which he goes down to Topham and gives him a formal challenge to box him before the company: Topham ſurveying him with ſome ſurpriſe and much contempt, but yet without any malignity, "Boxing, ſays he, is not my trade, and I have no quarrel with you, nor you with me, why then ſhould we fight?" the champion now became more vociferous than before; he miſtook Topham's phlegm for cowardice, and inſiſted upon his accepting the challenge, not without ſome terms of reproach; Topham, at length, ſeemed to conſent; "But, cocky, ſays he, as we fight for honour, let us be friends; come, give me your paw!" the hero condeſcended to ſtretch out his hand, which Topham taking hold of, griped it harder and harder, till after making many wry faces and extortions, the fellow roared out like a bull; upon which Topham immediately letting him go, he went quietly

back to his ſeat without ſpeaking a word, to the no ſmall diverſion of the company, from which he was ſoon expelled by hoots of deriſion and contempt, and the clamorous applauſe that was beſtowed on the man he had inſulted.

He kept a public houſe at Iſlington, which had for the ſign the figure of himſelf. He there exhibited his uncommon feats of activity and powreſs, of which Dr. Deſaguliers has given an account in a paper which he communicated to the Royal Society, and which may be read in the Tranſactions of that learned body.

AN INGENIOUS MECHANIC.

John Harriſon, a celebrated Engliſh machanician, was, from his earlieſt childhood, attached to any machinery moving by wheels, as appears while he lay ſick of the ſmall pox, about the 6th year of his age; when he had a watch placed open upon his pillow, to amuſe himſelf by contemplating on the movement. In 1700, he removed with his father to barrow in Lincolnſhire, where,

where, though his opportunities of acquiring knowledge were very few, he eagerly improved every incident from which he might collect information; frequently employing all, or great part of his nights, in writing or drawing: and he always acknowledged his obligations to a clergyman who came every Sunday to officiate in the neighbourhood, who lent him a MS. copy of Profeſſor Sanderſon's Lectures, which he carefully and neatly tranſcribed, with all the diagrams. His native genious exerted itſelf ſuperior to theſe ſolitary diſadvantages; for in the year 1726 he had conſtructed two clocks, moſtly of wood, in which hs applied the eſcapement and compound pendulum of his own invention: theſe ſurpaſſed every thing then made, ſcarcely erring a ſecond in a month. In 1728, he came up to London with the drawings of a machine for determining the longitude at ſea, in expectation of being enabled to execute one by the board of longitude. Upon application to Dr. Halley, he referred him to Mr. George Graham, who, diſcovered he had uncommon merit, adviſed him to make his machine before he applied to the board of longitude. He returned home to perform this taſk, and,

in 1735, came to London again with his firſt machine; with which he was ſent to Liſbon the next year for trial of its properties. In this ſhort voyage he corrected the dead reckoning about a degree and a half, a ſucceſs that proved the means of his receiving both public and private encouragement. About the year 1739, he compleated his ſecond machine, on a conſtruction much more ſimple than the former, and which anſwered much better: this, though not ſent to ſea, recommended Mr. Harriſon yet ſtronger to the patronage of his private friends, and of the public. His third machine, which he produced in 1749, was ſtill leſs complicated than the ſecond, and ſuperior in accuracy, as erring only three or four ſeconds in a week. This he conceived to be the ne-plus ultra of his attempts; but, in an endeavour to improve pocket watches, he found the principles he applied to ſurpaſs his expectations ſo much, as to encourage him to make his fourth Time-keeper, which is in the form of a pocket watch, about ſix inches in diameter. With this Time-keeper his ſon made two voyages, the one to Jamaica, and the other to Barbadoes; in both which experiments

ments it corrected the longitude within the nearest limits required by the act of the 12th of Queen Anne: and the inventor thereof, at different times, though not without infinite trouble, received the proposed reward of 20,000l. These four machines were given up to the Board of Longitude. The three former were not of any use, as all the advantages gained by making them, were comprehended in the last: they were worthy, however, of being carefully preserved as mechanical curiosities, in which might be traced the gradations of ingenuity, executed with the most delicate workmanship! whereas they now lie totally neglected, in the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. The fourth machine, emphatically distinguished by the name of the Time-keeper, has been copied by the ingenius Mr. Kendal; and the duplicate, during a three years circumnavigation of the globe, in the southern hemisphere with Captain Cook, answered as well as the original. The latter part of Mr. Harrison's life was employed in making a fifth improved Time-keeper, on the same principles with the preceding one; which at the end of a ten Weeks trial, in 1772, at the King's private Observatory at Richmond,

mond, erring only four and half ſeconds. Within a few years of his death, his conſtitution viſibly declined, and he had frequent fits of the gout, a diſorder that never attacked him before his 77th year; he died at his houſe in Red-lion ſquare, London, the 24th of March, 1776, aged 83. The recluſe manner of his life, in the unremitting purſuit of his favourite object, was by no means calculated to qualify him as a man of the world, and the many diſcouragements he encountered, in ſoliciting the legal reward of his labours, ſtill leſs diſpoſed him to accommodate himſelf to the humours of mankind. In converſing on his profeſſion, he was clear, diſtinct, and modeſt, yet, like many other mere mechanics, found a difficulty in delivering his meaning by writing, in which he adhered to a peculiar and uncouth phraſeology. This was but too evident in his 'Deſcription concerning ſuch Mechaniſm as will afford a nice or true menſuration of Time, &c. 8vo. 1775; which his well known mechanical talents will induce the public to account for from his acquaintance with letters, from his advanced age, and attendant mental infirmities; among which may be ranked his obſtinate refuſal

ſal to accept of any aſſiſtance whatever in his publication.' This ſmall work includes alſo an account of his new muſical ſcale; of mechanical diviſion of the octave, according to the proportion which the radius and diameter of a circle have reſpectively to the circumference. He had, in his youth, been the leader of a diſtinguiſhed band of church-ſingers; had a very delicate ear for muſic; and his experiments on ſound, with a moſt curious monochord of his own improvement are reported to have been not leſs accurate than thoſe he was engaged in for the menſuration of time.

John Dee was a man of extenſive learning, particularly in the mathematics, in which he had few equals; but he was vain, credulous, and enthuſiaſtic: he was deep in aſtrology, and ſtrongly tinctured with the ſuperſtition of the Roſicrucians, whoſe dreams he liſtened to with eagerneſs, and became as great a dreamer himſelf as any of the fraternity. He appears to have been, by turns a dupe and a cheat; but acquired prodigious reputation, and was courted by the

the greateſt princes in Europe, who thought that, in poſſeſſing him, they ſhould literally poſſeſs a treaſure. He was offered large penſions by the emperor Charles V. Ferdinand, Maximilian, Rodolph, and the Czar of Muſcovy. He travelled over great part of Europe, and ſeems to have been revered by moſt perſons of rank and eminence, as a being of ſuperior order. He pretended that a black ſtone, or ſpeculum, which he made great uſe of, was brought him by angels, and that he was particularly intimate with Raphael and Gabriel.

Edward Kelly, the aſſociate of his ſtudies and travels, who was eſteemed an adept in chemiſtry, was appointed his ſeer or ſpeculator. He is ſaid to have written down what came from the mouths of the angels or dæmons that appeared in the ſpeculum. His reputation, as a Roſicrucion, was equal at leaſt, to that of Doctor Dee; but he was ſo unfortunate as to loſe both his ears at Lancaſter. It was confidently reported that he raiſed a dead body in that country. He was impriſoned for a cheat in Germany; a country which hath produced more dupes to alchemy than all the other nations in Europe. He pretended that he was enjoined by ſome

ſome of his friends, the angels, to have a community of wives; and he ſo ſtrictly adhered to this injunction, that he ſeems to have made it a part of his religion. Kelly died miſerable, from the effects of a fall, in eſcaping from the confinement in Germany; and Dee, very poor, at Mortlake, in Surry; the former in October 1595; the latter in 1708, in the 81ſt year of his age. The black ſtone, into which Dee uſed to call his ſpirits, was in the collection of the Earls of Peterborough, whence it came to Lady Elizabeth Germaine. It was next the property of the late Duke of Argyle, and is now Mr. Walpole's. It appears, upon examination, to be nothing but a poliſhed piece of canal coal. But this is what he means, when he ſays,

Kelly did all his feats upon
The Devil's looking glaſs, a ſtone.

MARY SIBYL MERIAN, A FEMALE FLORIST AND ARTIST.

She was the daughter as it is thought of Matthew Merian, an ingenious German Engraver, who has given Topographical Collections, in 31 vols. fol.

Florilegium;

Florilegium, Francf. fol. 1641. She was born at Francfort in 1747, and made herſelf famous from her youth by her ingenuity and accurateneſs in delineating flowers and inſects in water colours.

She began with ſilk-worms at Francfort, where ſhe was born; and then perceiving that much finer inſects ſprung from other worms, ſhe collected as many as ſhe could get, to obſerve their ſeveral metamorphoſis. The better to ſucceed in her deſign, ſhe reſolved to live in a perfect retirement; and being wholly intent upon thoſe obſervations, ſhe undertook to make by that means a new progreſs in painting; and to repreſent her diſcoveries in natural and lively colours. Thus ſhe painted upon vellum, all the inſects ſhe could find at Francfort and Nuremberg. Some curious perſons having ſeen her performance, deſired her to impart it to the public. At laſt ſhe yielded to their ſolicitations, and publiſhed the firſt part of her figures in 1679. in 4to. and the ſecond in 1683, engraved with her own hands. Afterwards ſhe went into Friezland and Holland, where ſhe continued to make new obſervations upon inſects. Being in Holland, ſhe admired the vaſt number

ber of animals brought into that country from the Eaſt and Weſt Indies. Her admiration increaſed, when ſhe was admitted into the curious cabinets of M. Nichalas Witſen, M. Jonas Wiſen, Dr. Ruiſch, M. Vincent, and ſeveral others. At the ſight of ſuch a prodigious number of inſects, ſhe reſolved to make a voyage into Surinam; from whence thoſe inſects were conveyed into Holland. She arrived there in June 1699. Whilſt Mrs. Merian was in America, ſhe wholly applied herſelf to make obſervations upon the inſects of that country. The great heat of Surinam, not agreeing with her conſtitution, ſhe left that country ſooner than ſhe intended, and returned into Holland in September 1701.

She made ſome other voyages, and died at Amſterdam, 1717. The beſt edition of her metamorphoſis Inſectorum Surinamenſium, is that of Amſt. fol. 1705. Sir Hans Sloane gave 60ol. for the original manuſcript of this book, and it is now among the curioſities in the Britiſh Muſeum.

AN ITALIAN ASTROLOGER.

Placidus De Titus, from the beſt information, appears to have been an Italian monk, and an inhabitant of Bologna. He was a man of conſiderable genius, and much application and induſtry. It is difficult to fix the preciſe time of his birth or death, but it is certain he lived at the time of the revival of Letters in Europe. He was a great ſearcher into the abſtruſe, and latent ſecrets of Nature; and, if we may judge by what he has left behind him, he muſt have lived to an advanced age. His book on the "Elementary Philoſophy of the Univerſe," is far ſuperior, in every part, to many others of contemporary writers upon the ſame ſubject, and has been ſo ſcarce, that fifty guineas have been refuſed for a copy. The late Mr. Benjamin Biſhop, maſter of Sir John Caſs's School, Aldgate, cauſed this work to be tranſlated from the original Latin into Engliſh; but he unfortunately died before the book was quite finiſhed; and the MS. falling into the hands of a rapacious and

and leſs learned editor, it has been publiſhed in a more incorrect manner than would have happened, had the life of that ingenious ſiderial artiſt been of a longer date.

We are beholden to this piece, in the original, for the moſt judicious and learned remarks, made by the famous Partridge, in his "Opus Reformatum," and "Defectio Geniturarum," who was, perhaps, himſelf, the greateſt Engliſh Profeſſor of this ſcience in the laſt century.

A FAMOUS ENGLISH AND POLITICAL ASTROLOGER.

William Lilly, an eminent Engliſh Aſtrologer, in the ſeventeenth century, carried the art of the ſiderial influx to ſuch a height, and the temper of the times favoured the celeſtial ſcience, that no material ſtep was taken by the Court, without firſt conſulting Mr. Wm. Lilly. His "Merlinus Anglicüs Junior," the "Supernatural Sight," and the "White King's Prophecy," contributed much to his fame, in the diſtracted time of Charles I. While that king was at Hampton-court,

count, about July or Auguſt, 1647, he was coſulted, whither, his majeſty might retire for ſafety; and in 1648, he was conſulted for the ſame purpoſe, while the king was at Cariſbrook-caſtle, in the iſle of White. The ſame year he publiſhed his "Treatiſe of the Three Suns," ſeen the preceding winter; as alſo an aſtrological judgment upon a conjunction of Saturn and Mars. This year, the Council of State gave him, in money, fifty pounds, and a penſion of an hundred pounds per annum. In 1648 and 49, he publicly read and explained the firſt part of the Chriſtian Aſtrology, for the improvement of young ſtudents in that ſcience. In 1651, he publiſhed his Monarchy or no Monarchy. During the ſiege of Colcheſter, he and John Booker were ſent for, to encourage the ſoldiers, aſſuring them that the town would ſoon be taken, as indeed it was. In 1652, he publiſhed his "Annus Tenebroſus." In his Almanack for next year, he aſſerted that the parliament ſtood upon a tottering foundation; upon which he was confined for thirteen days. In 1654, he had a diſpute with the learned Mr. Gataker, who in his Annotations on Jeremiah x 2 had reflected on Mr. Lilly. In 1655 he was indicted at Hick's-

Hick's-Hall, for giving judgment upon ſtolen goods, but was acquitted. In 1559, Captain Cook brought him, from the King of Sweden, a gold chain and a medal, worth about fifty pounds, on account of Mr. Lilly's having mentioned that King with reſpect, in his Almanack of 1657. In June 1660, he was taken into cuſtody by order of the Parliament, by whom he was examined concerning the perſon who cut of the head of King Charles I. The ſame year, he ſued out his pardon under the great ſeal of England. The plague raging in London, he removed with his family to his eſtate at Herſham; and in October 1666, was examined before a Committee of the Houſe of Commons, concerning the fire of London, which happened in September that year.

His laſt publication was "A Guide for Aſtrologers," tranſlated from the Latin of Guido Bonatius, a good piece; but his principal work is the "Chriſtian Aſtrology," a book, than which there is not a better extant upon the ſubject in any language.

After his retirement to Herſham, he applied himſelf to the ſtudy of phyſic, and, by means of his friend Mr. Aſhmole, obtained from Archbiſhop Sheldon

don a licenſe for the practice of it. A little before his death, he adopted for his ſon, by the name of Merlin Junior, one Henry Coley, a taylor by trade, and at the ſame time gave him the impreſſion of his Almanack, after it had been printed for 35 years. He died in 1681, of a dead palſy. Mr. Aſhmole ſet a monument over his grave, in the church of Walton upon Thames. Mr. George Smalridge, then a ſcholar at Weſtminſter-School, afterwards Biſhop of Briſtol, wrote two elegies, one in Latin, the other in Engliſh, upon his death.

To make a Colour that will appear or diſappear by Means of Air.

Take a ſmelling-bottle, put it in ſome alkali volatile, in which you have diſſolved ſome copper-filings; this will produce a blue colour. Preſent then the ſmelling-bottle to one of the company, deſiring him to ſtop it? and to their great aſtoniſhment, the colour will diſappear as ſoon as the ſmelling-bottle is ſtopped; you will make it eaſily re-appear by taking off the cork, which will be not leſs ſurpriſing.

Method of engraving in Relief on the Shell of a new-laid Egg.

Chuſe an egg that has a thick ſhell; waſh it well in freſh water, then dry it very carefully with a linen cloth; this being done, put ſome tallow or fat in a ſilver ſpoon; then hold it on the fire; when the fat is melted and very hot, it will ſerve inſtead of Ink, for drawing, with a new pen, whatever you like. This being finiſhed, you are to take the egg by the two ends, between two fingers.

and then lay it gently in a tumbler filled with good white wine vinegar; wherein, after remaining three hours and an half, the acid of the vinegar will have eaten enough of the thickneſs, of the ſhell; and as it cannot have the ſame effect on thoſe places that are covered with the fat, all the drawing will have preſerved its thickneſs, and will form the relief that is wanted.

By this means one may draw on an egg a coat of arms, a moſaic piece, medallion, or any other deſign whatever.

A curious and agreeable Wager, which you are ſure of winning.

Addreſs ſome perſon in the company, and ſay, Madam, or Sir, have you a watch, a ring, an etwee, or any other trinket? Begin by examining what has been given you, in order to form an idea of its value, ſince you are to lay your bet conſiderably under the intrinſic value of the trinket, to avoid being duped.

Suppoſe what has been offered to you is a watch, you are to propoſe a guinea as a wager againſt it: ſaying to the lady or gentleman, I lay a guinea that you do not ſay three times, my watch: when it

is put on the table, and your wager is accepted, aſk the perſon, preſenting him his watch, what is that; he will not fail to anſwer, it is my watch.

Preſent him afterwards another object, making him the ſame queſtion: ſuppoſe the object you preſent to be a pen, a piece of paper, or any other thing. If the perſon names the object you preſent, he has loſt; if on the contrary, he is on his guard, and anſwers, my watch, he muſt certainly win; but if I loſe, what will you give me; the perſon, being always on his guard, will anſwer again, my watch: then, appealing to his own words, you will take the watch and leave him the ſtake.

A Ring put into a Piſtol, which is after found in the Bill of a Dove in a Box, which had been before examined and ſealed.

One of the company is requeſted to put his ring into a piſtol, which is charged by another of the ſpectators;—an empty box is ſhewn to the company, and a third perſon is deſired to ſhut it.—This box is placed on a table in ſight of

the company, nevertheleſs, after the piſtol is fired, and the box opened, the dove is there found with the very ring in his bill which had really been put into the piſtol.

EXPLANATION.

When a piſtol is taken under pretence of ſhewing how it is to be managed, that moment the performer avails himſelf of, to ſmuggle out the ring, it is then conveyed to the confederate, who puts it in the bill of a tame dove, and by ſtretching his arm into the interior part of the table, he conducts the bird into the box, the bottom of which has a ſecret opening: the ribbon which has been ſealed and ſurrounds the box does not prevent it from opening, becauſe only part of the bottom opens, and care is taken not to give the ribbon a ſecond turn round the box, which by croſſing the firſt, might impede the introduction of the dove.

We ſhall not here deſcribe the conſtruction of ſuch a box, firſt, becauſe it would require many words to explain the ſimple effects of a groove; and, ſecondly, becauſe there is no cabinet-maker

ker of any ingenuity who does not, of his own, or of the invention of others, know many things of this kind.

In order to make this trick appear more ſurpriſing to thoſe who may ſuſpect the ſmuggling of the ring, you may do it two ways;—that is to ſay, when you have employed the artifice we have pointed out—you may cauſe a ſecond piſtol to be charged by one of the company, which you firſt take to pieces, to ſhew that there is no means of ſmuggling the ring out of the barrel—in this ſecond piſtol, you put a ring furniſhed you by one of the company who is in confederacy, and has already ſupplied your confederate with a ſimilar one to put in the dove's bill in caſe of need.

The Wonderful Well.

Four different coloured ſeeds, or ſmall comfits, are given to one of the audience to mix together, and throw down the well, he then is deſired to let down the bucket, and name the colour he would have brought up firſt, and ſo on 'till all the colours are *ſeparated.*

EXPLANATION.

The well is made to take off in the middle, in the lower part of which are four cells to contain the different ſeeds, which muſt be filled before the trick is performed, and cloſed by your valves ſimilar to the keys of a German flute;—towards the bottom the well is made narrower, ſo as juſt to fit the bucket, which being let down, the performer demands what colour the company chooſes to be drawn up firſt, and by touching the lever the ſeed required will fall into the bucket.

To make one Penknife out of three, jump out of a Goblet, agreeable to the Option of the Company.

Take a ſilver goblet, as, on account of its opacity, it will hide the means you employ to make the penknife jump out at the deſire of the aſſembly.

This operation conſiſts in a ſmall ſpring, about an inch broad by two inches and a quarter long.

You are to take care to ſubject or bend this ſpring before you begin the trick

trick with a little bit of ſugar, which being compreſſed between the ends of the ſpring, will prevent it from unbending:

Then aſk the company, ſhewing your three pen-knives of different colours, which of them they chuſe to ſee jump out of the goblet.

Put afterwards your three pen-knives in the goblet, taking care to lay the end of the handle of the choſen pen-knife in a little round hole that is in the upper end of the ſpring, confined by the bit of ſugar; and before you withdraw your hand from the goblet, which muſt contain in the bottom ſome drops of water, take a little of it with the tip of your finger, and put it dexterouſly on the ſugar, which by melting, will leave the ſpring at liberty to extend and make the pen-knife jump out.

While the ſugar is melting, you may ſtand far from the goblet, and command the pen-knife to jump out; and this will be done to the great aſtoniſhment of the ſpectators. Yet nothing is ſo ſimple as the means to make this experiment ſucceed, without the leaſt aſſiſtance from any confederate.

To pull off any Perſon's Shirt, without undreſſing him, or having Occaſion for a Confederate.

This trick requires only dexterity; and nevertheleſs, when I performed it at the Theatre-Royal in the Hay-market, every body imagined that the perſon whom I had tricked out of his ſhirt was in a confederacy with me.

The means of performing this trick are the following: only obſerving that the cloaths of the perſon whoſe ſhirt is to be pulled off be wide and eaſy.

Begin my making him pull off his ſtock and unbuttoning his ſhirt at the neck and ſleeves, afterwards tye a little ſtring in the button-hole of the left ſleeve; then, paſſing your hand behind his back, pull the ſhirt out of his breeches, and ſlide it over his head; then pulling it out before in the ſame manner, you will leave it on his ſtomach; after that, go to the right-hand, and pull the ſleeve down, ſo as to have it all out of the arm: the ſhirt being then all of a heap, as well in the right ſleeve as before the ſtomach, you are to make uſe of the little ſtring faſtened to the button-hole

le of the left ſleeve, to get back the ſleeve that muſt have ſlipt up, and to pull the whole ſhirt out that way.

To hide your way of operating from the perſon whom you unſhirt, and from the aſſembly, you may cover his head with a lady's cloak, holding a corner of it in your teeth.

In order to be more at your eaſe, you may mount on a chair, and do the whole operation under the cloak. Such are the means I uſed when I performed this trick.

The Handkerchief marked, cut, torn and mended.

Two of the company are requeſted to come forward on the ſtage, and a handkerchief is given to them, which they are to hold by the four corners, afterwards many other handkerchiefs are aſked from the company, and as they are gathered they are put into the firſt one to make a bundle:—when a dozen have been heaped, the two perſons who hold the bundle cauſe a third perſon to take one of them out by chance; and this third perſon is requeſted to examine the

marks, &c. and to cut off a corner with a pair of ſciſſars, other perſons may alſo cut off pieces if they chooſe; after which the handkerchief is entirely torn to pieces.—All the ſhreds are to be collected, which after being ſprinkled with ſome dung, are folded up and tied tight with a ribbon, to preſs them into a ſmall compaſs; they are put under a glaſs, which is warmed by rubbing with your hands—in a few minutes the handkerchief is taken from under the glaſs and unfolded—the company recognize the marks, and the aſtoniſhed ſpectators cannot perceive any rent in the handkerchief.

EXPLANATION.

This operation, which produces ſo general a deception, is very ſimple. One of the company is in confederacy, who having had two handkerchiefs exactly alike, gave one to the confederate, who was hidden behind the ſcene, and throws the other on the ſtage to be uſed in the trick. Care is taken to put out the handkerchief on the top of the heap, although they are ſeemingly mixed at hazard; the perſon to whom you addreſs yourſelf to take one by chance, naturally takes the upper-

uppermoſt, and if you perceive that another is taken, you requeſt them to mix them well, under pretence of compleating the trick, and then under pretence of ſettling them, you regain the poſition of the confederate handkerchief, and hand the bundle to ſome other of the company, whoſe countenance indicates leſs ſuſpicion, who puts his hand to the bundle of handkerchiefs, and good-naturedly takes out the firſt. When the handkerchief has been torn, and well folded, it is put under a glaſs on a table, which joins a partition.—on the ſpot of the table where it is placed, there is a ſmall trap which opens to let it fall into a drawer: the confederate hid behind the ſcene, paſſes his hand into the table, to ſubſtitute the ſecond in place of the firſt handkerchief, he then ſhuts the trap, which ſo neatly fits the ſpace it has opened, as to appear one uninterrupted ſurface, and deceive the eye of the moſt acute and incredulous ſpectator.

The Dancing Card.

One of the company is desired to draw a card, which is afterwards mixed with the pack, and is commanded to appear on the wall; it accordingly obeys, advancing as it is ordered, and describes an inclined line from the right to the left; it disappears at the top of the room, and appears an instant afterwards, moving in a horizontal direction.

EXPLANATION.

This trick is so simple, that it hardly merits an explanation: It first consists in making a person draw a forced card, which you know by the touch, because it is larger than the rest. After having shuffled them, you withdraw it from the pack, to shew the company it is not there, and when you order it to appear on the wall, the confederate dexterously draws a thread, at the end of which is fastened a similar card, which comes from behind a glass, and this card is fastened by very minute loops of silk to another

another thread fully ſtretched, along which the card runs, and performs its route—*ſi licet parva componere magnis*, it reſembles the rope acroſs the Seine, by which the ferry-boat of the invalids is conducted.

How to diſpoſe two little Figures, ſo that one ſhall light a Candle, and the other put it out.

Take two little figures of wood or clay, or any other materials you pleaſe, only taking care that there is a little hole at the mouth of each.—Put in the mouth of one a few grains of bruiſed gunpowder, and a little bit of phoſphorus in the mouth of the other; taking care that theſe preparations are made beforehand.

Then take a lighted wax candle and preſent it to the mouth of the figure with the gunpowder, which taking fire will put the candle out: then preſent your candle, having the ſnuff ſtill hot, to the other figure; it will light again immediately, by means of the phoſphorus.

You may propoſe the ſame effect to be

be produced by two figures drawn on a wall with a pencil or coal, by applying, with a little ſtarch or wafer, a few grains of bruiſed gunpowder to the mouth of one, and a bit of phoſphorus to the mouth of the other.

How to ſhoot a Swallow flying, with a Gun loaded with Powder; and after to find Means to bring it to life again.

Load your gun with the uſual charge of powder, but inſtead of ſhot put half a charge of quickſilver; prime and ſhoot; if your piece bears ever ſo little near the bird, as it is not neceſſary to touch it, the ſwallow will find itſelf ſtunned and benumbed to ſuch a degree, as to fall to the ground in a fit. As it will regain its ſenſes in a few minutes, you may make uſe of the time by ſaying, that you are going to bring it to life again; this will aſtoniſh greatly the company; the ladies will no doubt intereſt themſelves in favour of the bird, and intercede for its liberty: ſympathizing with their feelings for the little priſoner, may be the means of ſome of them ſympathizing with yours.

The Sympathetic Lamp.

This lamp is placed on a table, you get to a diſtance to blow through a tube, without directing the air towards the ſpot where it is, yet nevertheleſs the lamp is extinguiſhed, as if you blew it out.

EXPLANATION.

This lamp has in its baſe a ſmall bellows, the wind of which is, by a little tube, conveyed to the flame. The confederate, by moving the levers hid in the table, puts in motion the bellows to extinguiſh the lamp, at the moment it is required.

N. B. You may do this trick without a bellows. In the baſe of the lamp it would ſucceed by having a ſpring to draw the wick into the ſocket, when the lever is moved in the table, by which means you may make it appear or diſappear at pleaſure.

The

The Reſurrection of a Dead Bird.

One of the three eggs which has danced on the cane, having been broken to ſhew all was fair, you take the two others which were left on the table, one of which is choſen by the company, and on breaking it a Canary bird alive is found within: a lady of the company is requeſted to take it in her hands, and ſhortly after the bird dies—you take it again for a moment to put it under a glaſs on the table—in a few minutes you take up the glaſs, and the bird flies off.

EXPLANAMION.

You muſt empty two eggs, and take half of the ſhell of each, and adjuſt the two halves together by the aſſiſtance of a ſmall bit of paper, which you glue in the form of a zone or equator:—Being ſo arranged, they repreſent an egg, and are capable to hold a Canary bird provided you make a ſmall pin hole to ſupply the bird with air.—When you deliver the bird to the perſon who is to hold it, you kill it by the preſſure of your thumb and

and fore-finger—you afterwards put it under a glaſs which cover, ſuch a trap, and your confederate ſubſtitutes a living bird in the place of the dead one.

N. B. Not to foil in your trick, when you preſent the two eggs for one to be choſen, if you have not a living bird in each, you muſt put the egg which contains the bird next to the lady who is to chuſe; ſhe naturally chuſes the neareſt to her, becauſe having no idea of the trick to be performed, there is no apparent reaſon to take the one further off; at any rate, if the wrong one is taken, you do not fail in the trick; for you break the egg and ſay, " you ſee that " this egg is fair and freſh, Madam; ſo " you would have found the other if you " had choſen it. Now do you chuſe to " find in it a mouſe or a Canary bird?" She naturally declares for the bird; nevertheleſs, if ſhe aſks for the mouſe, there are means to eſcape. You aſk the ſame queſtions of ſeveral ladies, and gather the majority of votes which in all probability, will be in favour of the bird; but if, after all, the, voices are for the mouſe, what can you then do, having only a bird to produce? Courteous reader, after all we have already ſaid, if you fear to fail in your trick, and that your

your genius does not ſupply you a better artifice, make uſe of this one; pretend not to pay attention to thoſe who wiſh for the little quadrupede, addreſs yourſelf to one who wiſhes for the bird, and aſk them if they chuſe it dead or alive? and be in readineſs to kill it in caſe of neceſſity.

A Piece of Money ſhut up in a Box, which comes out of itſelf without being touched by any one.

A perſon is required to hold a box, into which is put before his eyes a piece of money or a ring; you ſtand at a diſtance and bid him ſhake the box gently, the piece is heard to rattle within ſide—he is deſired again to ſhake it, and then it is not heard to rattle. The third time it is again heard, but the fourth time it is gone, and is found in the ſhoe of one of the company.

EXPLANATION.

The box muſt be made on purpoſe, we will not deſcribe it here, becauſe all the

the performers of tricks ſell them; that one which has cauſed ſuch wonder at Paris and London, only differs from the others as being ſomewhat better made, and belonging to a perſon who embelliſhes his tricks with all poſſible advantages. This box is made in ſuch a manner, that in ſhaking it gently up and down, the piece within his heard: on the contrary, ſhaking it hard horizontally, a little ſpring which falls on the piece, prevents it from being heard, which makes you imagine it is not within. He who performs the trick then touches the box, under pretence of ſhewing how to ſhake it, and although it is locked, he eaſily gets out the piece, by means of a ſecret opening, availing himſelf of that minute to put in a falſe piece, and to leave the box with the ſame perſon, and he cauſes you to belief either that the piece is or is not within, according to the manner the box is ſhaken; at length the original piece is found in the ſhoe of one of the company, either by means of the perſon being in confedracy, and furniſhing him with a ſimilar piece, or by ſending ſome expert perſon to ſlip it on the floor—in this laſt caſe, is is found on the ground, and you perſuade the perſon

perſon it fell from his foot as he took it out of his ſhoe.

An artificial Spider, which moves by Electricity.

Take a bit of burnt cork, as big as a pea; give it the ſhape of a ſpider; make its legs with threads of hemp; put a grain of lead in the cork to give it ſome weight; then hang this artificial ſpider by a bit of grey ſewing ſilk (that is not twiſted) between two bodies, the one electrified and the other not; or between two bodies endowed with different electricities: it will go and come between theſe two bodies, and the movement of the legs will be ſeen as plain as if it were a living ſpider.

This artificial ſpider, if well made, will aſtoniſh thoſe who ſee it move ſo naturally.

Sympathetic Inks.

Theſe kinds of ink are very curious, and may ſerve for a great number of phyſical recreations, very ſurpriſing to ſuch

ſuch as are not acquainted with the manner of preparing them.

One kind, very eaſy, is made by taking an ounce of common aqua fortis, which you are to mix with three ounces of common water; you will uſe this mixture to write on paper that is ſtrong and very ſtiff: this writing becomes totally inviſible in drying; and in order to make it re-appear, you need only wet the paper; and when it dries the writing diſappears again. This effect may be repeated two or three times.

This proceſs is the eaſieſt to be done, as the neceſſary ingredients are almoſt always at hand.

Many other things furniſh the means of making ſympathetic ink, ſuch as cobalt, biſmuth, lime, &c. &c. but they require chemical and difficult preparations to be efficient.

The eaſieſt to be obtained are mentioned before; as the mixture aqua fortis and common water; and thoſe that may be formed by diſſolutions of ſalt and acids, ſuch as lemon or onion juice: in order to render them viſible, you need only approach them to the fire; the cold air produces on them the contrary effect.

To cut a Looking-glaſs, or Piece of Cryſtal, let it be ever ſo thick, without the Help of a Diamond, in the ſame Shape as the Mark of the Drawing made on it with Ink.

This remarkable operation unites utility with amuſement. For being in the country, or in a place where there is no glazier nor glaſsman to be had, the following means will anſwer the purpoſe without their help.

Take a bit of a walnut-tree, about the thickneſs of a candle, and cut one of its ends to a point; put that end in the fire, and let it burn till it is quite red. While the ſtick is burning, draw on the glaſs or cryſtal with ink, the deſign or outline of the form in which you mean to cut it out. Then take a file or bit of glaſs and ſcratch a little the place where you mean to begin your ſection; then take the wood red hot from the fire, and lay the point of it about the twentieth part of an inch, or thickneſs of a guinea, from the marked place; taking care to blow always on that point in order to keep it red; follow the drawing traced on

on the glaſs, leaving, as before, about the twentieth part of an inch interval every time that you preſent your piece of wood, which you muſt take care to blow often.

After having followed exactly the outlines of your drawing, to ſeparate the two pieces thus cut, you need only pull them up and down, and they will divide.

To melt a Piece of Steel as if it was Lead without requiring a very great Fire.

Take a piece of ſteel and put it in a crucible; then throw in a handful of antimony in powder: as ſoon as your crucible begins to be red, your piece of ſteel will melt like lead.

Pour it afterwards into an earthen veſſel, or a wedge-mould, to ſhew the company your operation has ſucceeded as you had promiſed.

Another

Another Method of Melting Steel, and to see it liquify.

Make a piece of ſteel quite red in the fire; then holding it with a pair of pincers or tongs, take in the other hand a ſtick of brimſtone, and touch the piece of ſteel with it; immediately after their contact, you will ſee the ſteel melt and drop like a liquid.

How to break a Staff upon two Glaſſes of Water.

Place the glaſſes (being full of water) upon two joint ſtools, or ſuch like equidiſtant from the ground, and diſtant one from another the length of the ſtaff; then place the end of the ſtaff upon the edges of the two glaſſes, ſo that they be ſharp; this done, with all the force you can, with another ſtaff, ſtrike the ſtaff which lies on the glaſſes in the midſt, and it will break, without breaking the glaſſes, or ſpilling the water.

FINIS.